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MONDAY FEBRUARY 10 1992

40p

Moscow anger on eve of airlift

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

AN airlift of emergency food aid for the former Soviet Union begins today against a background of mounting public bitterness highlighted by angry demonstrations at the weekend in Moscow and other Russian cities.

The take-off of today's flight from Frankfurt, the first of at least 54 such missions, will be overseen by James Baker, the American Secretary of State, and the foreign ministers of Germany and Portugal, symbolizing a common US and European commitment to backing the reform process. Yet it remains an open question whether Western aid will suffice to avert the social explosion that was clearly foreshadowed by the latest public meetings in Moscow, which included a stormy congress of Russian nationalists and a march by at least 30,000 communists.

While opponents of Mr Yeltsin denounced him for betraying Russia to the West and decimating the armed forces, tens of thousands of his supporters also rallied in the capital and called for the



A woman shaking her crutches in the air as she joined others shouting support for President Yeltsin in Moscow yesterday

Moscow protests, page 8

US threatens to abandon Nato over trade talks

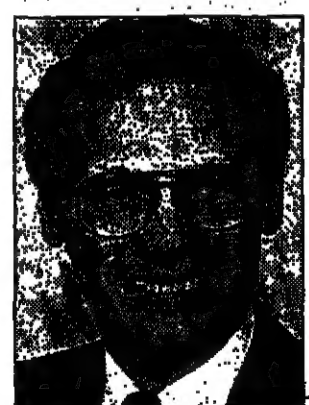
FROM IAN MURRAY IN MUNICH

THE United States, warned Europe last night that the American people's commitment to Nato could be endangered by intransigence in trade talks over agricultural subsidies.

Vice-President Dan Quayle told the annual security policy conference in Munich that America intended to link progress on negotiations on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade with a continued American commitment to Nato in Europe.

Arguing that a tough EC line on trade would prompt Americans to rethink the need to maintain troops abroad, the vice-president said: "Giant is absolutely critical to the security of Europe, to the security of the United States and the security of Asia. There are many reasons why we have got to get on with it. There were dangers, he said, 'if we have the Cold War behind us and yet no comprehensive understanding of how we start trade relationships'.

The vice-president was speaking with White House



Van den Broek: EC not ready to give way easily

Nursing a four-year grievance over pay

An advertising campaign hopes to raise nursing's image, yet morale suffers while nurses await appeals from a 1988 regrading. *Jeremy Laurence reports*

More than 30,000 nurses are still awaiting decisions on their salary levels and job gradings nearly four years after a new pay structure was introduced. Many are owed thousands of pounds in back pay.

At the present rate of progress it will take 100 years to hear all the appeals from nurses dissatisfied with the grade they were allocated when the new system was introduced in April 1988. One appeal has already been heard posthumously. It was upheld and the money paid into the nurse's estate.

The Royal College of Nursing says the delays have damaged morale and caused distress and disruption at a time when there is growing concern about the looming shortage of nurses. This week the health department is extending its present £2.6 million advertising campaign to improve the image of nursing because it fears that demographic trends will lead to long-term difficulties in recruiting staff.

Major hopeful as consumers start spending

BY SHEILA GUNN AND NICHOLAS WOOD

JOHN Major sounded an optimistic note about Britain's economic prospects yesterday, insisting that the ingredients were in place for coming out of recession. He said that the economy was beginning to show signs of recovery in some of the latest production figures and other statistics.

Mr Major's cautious forecast was supported by indications of a small boost in consumer confidence, but not by a CBI survey of small firms, which showed more pessimism about the economy than four months ago.

Infotlink, the independent credit information agency, reported that demand for credit in the retail sector was 8.1 per cent higher than in December 1990. There was also a rise in demand for home loans after the government's announcement of a temporary lifting of stamp duty.

Unemployment figures to be published on Thursday are expected to show the 22nd consecutive monthly rise, with a headline figure of nearly 2.6 million. The increase looks certain to be highest in the South, which could account for up to half of January's increase.

With ministers privately admitting that consumer confidence is unlikely to rise substantially before polling day, the Cabinet will discuss a confidence-boosting, tax-cutting Budget on Thursday. Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, is expected to disclose that he is preparing to give away up to £3 billion in tax cuts, including a 1p cut in the standard rate of income tax and the raising of thresholds.

The government will announce today pay increases for teachers, nurses and other public sector staff of between 6 and 8 per cent, in line with the recommendations of the pay review bodies.

Meanwhile, Mr Major and Chris Patten, Conservative party chairman, targeted Labour's economic programme yesterday, saying that it threatened the chances

MI5 could tackle IRA

The intelligence service, MI5, may take over the role of monitoring the activities of mainland terrorist groups such as the IRA.

Security service leaders are pressing the Home Office to transfer collection of intelligence on terrorist groups in mainland Britain away from Scotland Yard's special branch and anti-terrorist branch. Supporters of MI5 argue that the police have failed to halt an IRA mainland campaign. *Page 2*

Atrocity trial

The first United Kingdom trial centring on alleged war crimes begins tomorrow, opening with a three-day hearing in Vilnius before moving to Edinburgh. A Lithuanian-born man is suing Scottish Television over claims he took part in second world war atrocities. *Page 5*

Clinton hunt

Bill Clinton is still front runner in the New Hampshire presidential race, but his opponents believe they have barely scratched the surface of his "character problems" as the campaign rough stuff begins to warm up. *Page 9*

Algerian alert

Algeria's authorities seem poised to declare a state of emergency, after clashes between Islamic fundamentalists and the security forces. *Page 11*

Richards call

Dean Richards, the rugby union player dropped from England's World Cup team in Paris last October, was recalled yesterday for the match against the French in Saturday's five nations' championship at Parc des Princes. *Page 30*

Forest draw

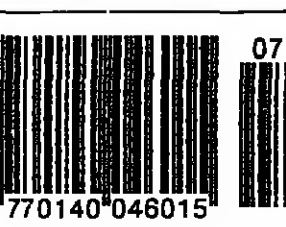
A second-half goal by Teddy Sheringham earned Nottingham Forest a 1-1 draw against Tottenham Hotspur in the first leg of the Rumbelows Cup semi-final at Nottingham. Gary Lineker gave Spurs the lead in the first half with a penalty. *Page 30*

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MEPs seek enquiry on tobacco lobbyists

BY TONY DAWE

A LOBBYING campaign costing millions of pounds and aimed at swaying tomorrow's European parliament vote on tobacco advertising has prompted MEPs to investigate the entire subject of professional lobbying.

Members of the Strasbourg parliament have suffered unprecedented pressure to dissuade them from deciding tomorrow to order a blanket ban on such advertising. Many believe the unstinting efforts of the tobacco lobby

have emphasised the need for tighter restrictions to prevent elected representatives coming under excessive pressure.

MEPs have called for curbs on the work of lobbyists, now numbering more than 3,000, including setting up havens in which elected representatives can be spared unwelcome pestering. Among other proposals suggested is the registration of professional lobbyists.

Richard Luger, a Republican senator from Indiana, Continued on page 16, col 7

CAP monster, page 8
Leading article, page 13

Paris targets London's mastery of art sales

BY SARAH JANE CHECKLAND
SALEROOM CORRESPONDENT

THE Paris auction houses are planning to undercut their London counterparts by charging a 9 per cent buyer's premium, against 10 per cent in Britain. The move has been condemned as the latest dirty trick in a battle for supremacy of the European art market.

London is now the master, commanding an estimated 75 per cent of art sold at auction in Europe, contributing £1 billion annually to the Treasury. Its lead is built on a combination of tradition and trade advantages that will be either abolished or levelled with the rest of Europe on the arrival of 1993. Those include value-added tax being charged on the auctioneer's commission rather than the hammer price, and a *laissez-faire* export system for heritage items. In

comparison, the French market is crippled by taxes and import-export restrictions. The fact that only *commissaires priseurs* or state-appointed auctioneers are allowed to hold auctions has been seen as a further dampener. There is also the *droite de suite*, whereby a 3 per cent royalty is paid to artists or their descendants every time a work is sold.

In spite of a robust improvement in its performance over the past five years, Paris lags far behind London. Now, however, there are signs that a newly aggressive Paris may turn some of these restrictions to its advantage. Arguably it has justice on its side, for London and New York have for long made millions out of France's most lucrative art export - Impressionism - while France has made hardly a penny. London may have its tradition of trading, but Par-

is has a tradition, its auctioneers say, of actually liking art.

After the announcement about the new commission rate last week, Sotheby's in London complained about the restrictive system in France. That market, Sotheby's said, "remains closed to anyone who is not part of the *commissaire preneur* system". Sotheby's considers the impediments for a non-French auction house incompatible with a free market. Sotheby's added: "According to the views of the European Commission and the European Court of Justice, works of art are to be regarded as goods like any other goods and therefore subject to the articles of the Treaty of Rome calling for the removal of obstacles to trade."

On the auctioneers' monopoly, Francois Curjel, Christie's deputy chairman, complained that "no foreigners have ever passed the exams."

There are problems with the free movement of works of art in France.

Lobbying for the removal of Britain's advantages is under way in Europe. A report in the magazine *Country Life* quotes the Paris auctioneer Antoine Ader of Ader Tajan as saying "Great Britain is too privileged... if I worked in the same conditions as the English, I think I could do better." Count Peter Eltz, of the Berlin salerooms Villa Grisebach, said: "If London loses its preferential status it will decline as an auctioneering centre, because, unlike us, its home market is so weak."

Anthony Browne, a Christie's director, said last night that members of the British art market were lobbying strongly for the British VAT system eventually to apply to all Europe.

Madeleine in bloom
L&T section, page 1

TODAY IN THE TIMES

RENAISSANCE OF A RAPHAEL



How a hidden masterpiece was restored to grace Life & Times Page 1

HITTING THE ROAD AGAIN



Tom Courtenay rediscovers his love of theatre Life & Times Page 3

DOWNHILL ALL THE WAY



Patrick Orlieb takes gold at Val d'Isere - and the organisers by surprise Page 30

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THE ENERGY TO SUCCEED

Paddy Ashdown strives to put toughest week behind him



Ashdown: denies that he has exploited family

PADDY Ashdown yesterday played down the sharp rise in his personal poll rating as saying more about the decency and generosity of the British people than about himself.

As he tried to shift the spotlight from his admission of an affair with his former secretary and back to politics, the Liberal Democrat leader said that after the "toughest week" of his life and his family's life, it was back to business.

The proportion of voters believing that Mr Ashdown would do well as prime minister has risen in the past month from 34 per cent to 47 per cent, according to a NOP/Independent on Sunday poll conducted after his statement.

The Liberal Democrats' standing also rose, from 13 per cent to 15 per cent, sustaining the belief in the Tory and Labour camps that

The Liberal Democrat leader attributes his rise in popularity to the kindness of the public as he gets back to normal politics, Sheila Gunn writes

the Liberal Democrat vote may have been underestimated in earlier polls. The voting intentions survey (with last month's figures in brackets) put Conservatives at 38 (40); Labour at 42 (43); Liberal Democrats at 15 (13); and others at 4 (4). Taken with other recent polls, the two main parties appear to be neck and neck.

Interviewed on LBC's *News Talk* programme yesterday about his poll ratings, Mr Ashdown replied: "It says more about the British people than it says about me. It says a great deal about their inherent generosity and their understanding of these matters, an understanding which perhaps

runs ahead of the understanding of the press about the importance and relative status of these things."

Mr Ashdown denied using his family as a "political weapon", insisting that it was the press and television programmes that created the image. He said: "They came along and said 'Can we do your family?' It is a bit ridiculous that the newspapers who put in these offers and wanted to do them should set me up and knock me down. I have never pretended life was straightforward or easy. I have never stood on a platform and shouted about private morality. I have strong views about public morality." He said that he and his

wife, Jane, had tried to keep their children out of any publicity.

"You may argue that the private lives of a public figure are a matter of public interest," Mr Ashdown said. "I do not personally think they are, but I will never vote for a privacy bill. I believe my private life is not a matter for public report and will not comment on it except when I am put in a position where it is interfering with my job."

Mr Ashdown said that if the press was prepared to use information from a document criminally obtained, there was nothing to protect any kind of privacy. He argued that there was a fundamental difference between a leaked document relating to a matter of public policy and a stolen one, obtained from a break-in, relating to a person's private life. The man charged with the theft

of documents from the office of Paddy Ashdown's solicitors yesterday said that some official records that list him as dead were the result of a computer error (Alison Roberts writes).

Simon Berkowitz denied attempting to change his name. He said: "I think it must be a computer mistake. I don't know why they have got that down."

The *Sunday Times* claimed that there was no record of Simon Leo Berkowitz, the name given by the man charged on Friday, in national insurance files, and that a Simon Berkowitz, also of Sussex and with the same date of birth, was shown to have died on January 1, 1988.

The social security department yesterday refused to confirm or deny the newspaper's claim. A spokesman said: "These are confi-

dential records. Information can only be given out on the request of the person concerned, therefore I think you will have to treat the information with some scepticism."

When a man dies, his national insurance records are kept on computer for the benefit of dependents he may leave. The department records a contributor's death if a relative informs it when benefit cards are handed in. Otherwise, the Registrar General's office automatically tells the department of deaths. In both cases, a death certificate is needed as confirmation.

Mr Berkowitz is accused of burgling the offices of Bates, Wells & Braithwaite, taking £248 and documents.

Patience warning, page 16
Theresa Lawson
L&T section, page 4

Police fight MI5 over bigger role

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE are opposing a proposition that the Home Office transfer the collection of mainland terrorist intelligence on the operations of groups including the IRA from police units to MI5. Police regard the proposal by security service chiefs as poaching by MI5.

MI5 already has a key role in anti-terrorist work in Northern Ireland, where officials have been operating since the 1970s alongside the RUC and the army. The security service has also mounted operations in Europe against the IRA. Now, it is arguing that MI5 should take over the lead role in mainland intelligence work, currently led by Scotland

Yard's special branch and anti-terrorist branch.

The question of MI5's workload is being studied by a Home Office review led by Ian Burns, head of the police department and a former senior official at the Northern Ireland office. The review is the second in recent years into the question of MI5's duties.

The possibility of expanding the MI5 role is being urged by Stella Rimington, the new head of the Security Service, at a time when MI5 is trying to find new tasks for itself as the cold war and the threat of communist espionage or subversion is declining.

Supporters of MI5 have

argued that the police, devoid of good intelligence, have failed to halt an IRA mainland campaign that has now been running since 1988 and included the Deal bombing and the attack on Downing Street last year. MI5 would be adopting a role that equivalent agencies abroad have already taken up, and officials might argue that even their old foes in the KGB are now turning towards combating terrorism and even international crime.

MI5 is not thought to be interested in trying to take up a role in serious crime such as drug trafficking, although in Washington, intelligence analysts watching the end of the cold war have spoken about turning their skills to combating drug trafficking.

The MI5 bid has emerged as the Yard's section of Special Branch is facing an uncertain future as counter-espionage work diminishes and VIP protection duties pass to a new Yard unit. Special Branch was formed in the 19th century to combat violent Irish Republican groups and then took on wider roles against subversion, espionage and general terrorism. Its Irish desk has been in operation since the 1880s.

Police opponents of any increase in MI5's duties would point out that there is no public accountability and that the way MI5 works has already been called into question in recent years with the revelations of former agents. The future over the army's use of informants in Belfast in the Nelson case might also be argued as another reason for treading carefully in expanding the MI5 role.

At the moment, the intelligence community meets across the table at regular sittings of a joint intelligence committee that includes senior police officers as well as representatives of MI5 and MI6. MI5 officials are likely to argue that the centralising of intelligence analysis in Northern Ireland has worked well, but opponents might point to considerable feuding between the various components of the intelligence community in Northern Ireland in spite of the appointment of an MI5 official to oversee the work.

Ulster war claim rejected by Major

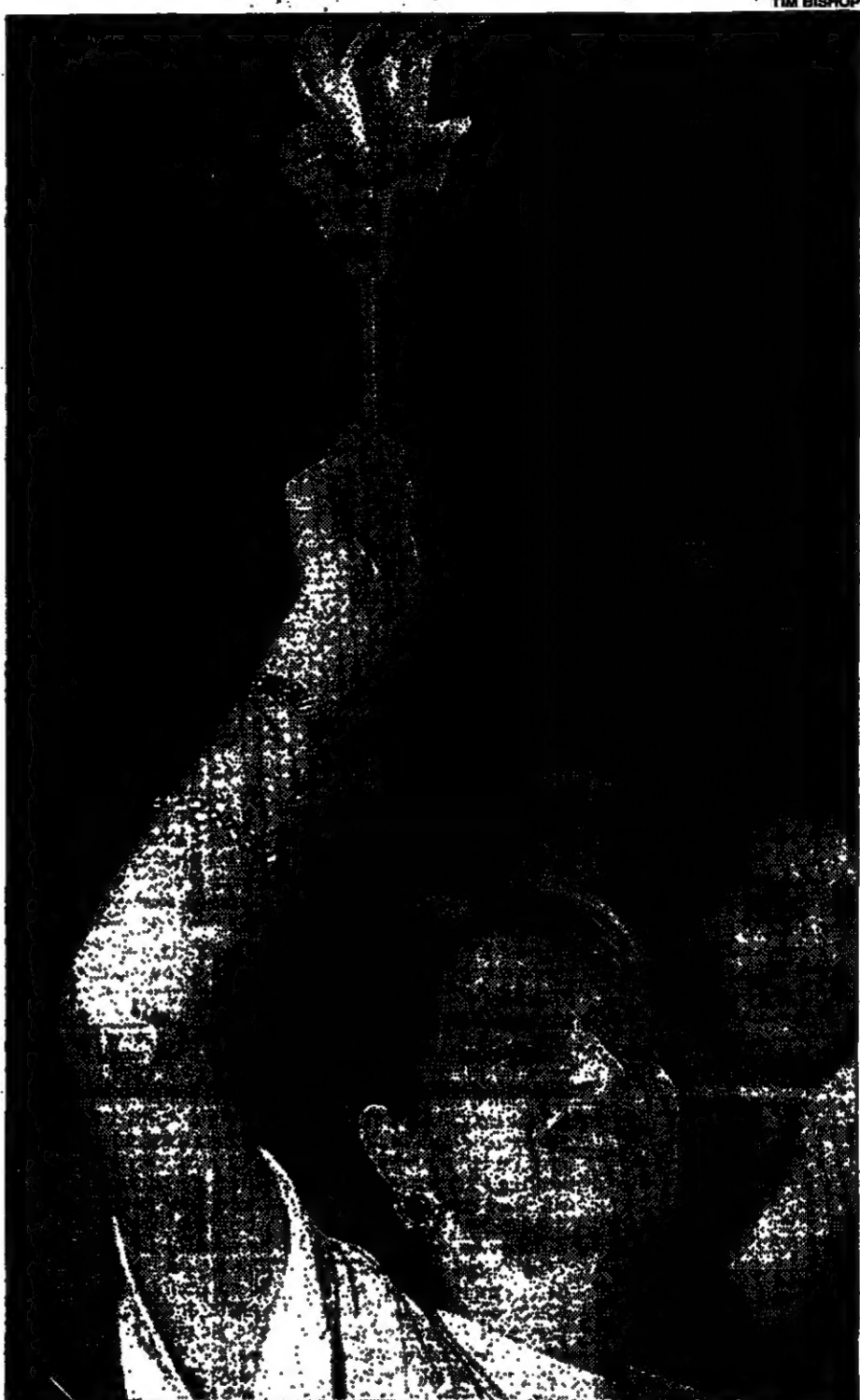
By EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE prime minister yesterday told the people of Northern Ireland he did not believe that the province was slipping into a state of civil war.

In an article written for in the *Sunday Life* newspaper published in Belfast, John Major noted claims by some unionist politicians that the recent upsurge in killing amounted to a slide into anarchy or civil war.

"Tragic though the last few weeks have been, I do not believe that is the case," Mr Major said. "I know the vast majority of people in Northern Ireland totally reject the prospect of more inter-community strife."

The fact that Mr Major accepted an invitation from *Sunday Life*'s editors to address its readers is an indication of concern in Downing Street at flagging morale in Northern Ireland in the wake of three mass murders in a month and a death toll of 26. Mr Major underlined the government's commitment to bringing the violence to an end. "I want to restate here and now that the government has done — and will continue to do — everything it can to make sure the security forces have the resources they need to carry out their vital task."



Showing the flag: a supporter cheering John Major's speech at the Young Conservatives' conference in Eastbourne yesterday, in which he forecast economic recovery. Major optimistic, page 1; Humbug warning, page 16

Lang rules out any move to devolution

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

IAN Lang, the Scottish secretary, firmly ruled out yesterday any possibility of self-government for Scotland, while accusing the other parties of jeopardising the union.

John Major will be repeating that message when he visits Scotland soon. The prime minister has ordered his Scottish troops to stop fuelling speculation that the Tories were prepared to soften their line against devolution. He has insisted that they must fight the general election under the banner of the union.

Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, will deliver a similar message in a visit to northeast Scotland early next month.

When Mr Lang was challenged during a televised interview about support for a referendum from Lord Sanderson, the Scottish party chairman, he refused to rule it out, but said he did not see any need for one.

With the Tories relegated to the third party in Scotland, Mr Major is intent on salvaging their fortunes by presenting voters with a clear choice between the pro-union Conservatives and the SNP. In this way he hopes to squeeze out Labour and the Liberal Democrats.

Mr Major also plans to detail the costs to Scottish taxpayers of the Scottish assembly or home rule proposals. He is said by a government source to be concerned that the Scots "have been told the prize but certainly not the price."

Labour is ready to go further towards devolving powers to the Scots by promising that a Scottish parliament should have the powers to dictate training and industrial investment policies.

Man held after gun hijacking

Police sealed off part of Telford in Shropshire on Saturday night after a gunman fired two shots through the window of a house and then hijacked three cars during a 60 mile drive (Peter Victor writes).

Officers were called to a house in Macclesfield, Telford, after the shooting incident. As they sealed off the area, a man with a shotgun was seen holding a taxi. The taxi driver was ordered to drive 30 miles to Ludlow, where the gunman hijacked a private car. The car was dumped in another part of Ludlow, where the gunman stopped a third car and forced the driver to take him back to Telford.

He then walked to a house in Sunon Hill in Telford, where a relative persuaded him to hand himself up. A man aged 35 is helping police with their enquiries.

Girl killed in pony accident

A child died after being dragged down a farm track in her pushchair by a pony. A strap on the pony's blanket apparently caught the handle of the buggy in which Elizabeth Hyde, 11, was sitting. She suffered multiple injuries and was dead on arrival at hospital.

Her sister, Maria, aged six, who was riding the pony, was flung to the ground as it bolted. She suffered cuts and bruises in the accident, at a farm in Wavne, near Hull, where she rides the pony regularly.

Youths accused after train crash

Four youths have been accused of criminal damage after an InterCity train carrying 500 passengers hit a pile of metal debris placed on the line. The youths, aged between 13 and 16, will also be accused of unlawfully obstructing the railway when they appear before a juvenile court.

The engine and leading coach were extensively damaged when the Paddington to Swansea express, travelling at 50mph, hit steel bars and pipework near Skewen, West Glamorgan, on Friday night. Nobody was injured.

Couple killed

A couple died and four people, including their two children, were injured when two cars and a van collided on the A710 near Beeswing, eight miles from Dumfries, last night. The four injured were undergoing emergency treatment at Dumfries Hospital. One of them, a man, was said to be "critical". The van driver was trapped in a water-filled ditch for an hour before firemen cut him free.

CORRECTION

The correct title of Michael Stevenson's new appointment, reported on Saturday, is Secretary of the BBC.

Whitehall 'biased towards the right'

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

A LABOUR government would expect resistance to its policies from senior civil servants loyal to the Conservatives, David Blunkett, the party's local government spokesman, said yesterday.

The environment department in particular was "ridicled with Tories" at senior levels. Mr Blunkett told a fringe meeting at the Labour local government conference in Blackpool. "They are place men. People have been given preference because they were avid Thatcherites."

Mr Blunkett accused Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, of attempting to rush through before the election the appointment of a new permanent secretary to replace Sir Terence Heiser.

Mr Blunkett said that Sir

Terence was due to step down this month and that Mr Heseltine was "intent on imposing his successor before we get into office. No ordinary, normal individual, when there is an election at the beginning of April or May, would deliberately rush through the appointment of the head of the civil service in a department in order to constrain their successor," he said.

Jack Straw, the party's education spokesman, told the conference that by forcing schools to ask for contributions from parents the Conservatives had imposed a "parent tax". He promised that Labour would abolish city technology colleges and divert funding to provide essential equipment in the classroom.

Tories 'obsessed with doctrine'

By OUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major is "more extreme, more prejudiced and more obsessed with doctrinal prejudices" than his predecessor, Roy Hattersley, Labour's deputy leader, told the party's local government conference in Blackpool yesterday.

Mr Hattersley said that the Conservatives were bent on privatising public services from education to the police. "John Major's government has been even more... destructive to the national welfare than the Thatcher government."

He condemned the growing use of private security firms "dressed in uniforms indistinguishable from those of the police and willing to provide cut-price security". The 11 Royal Marine band members killed in the Deal barracks bombing in 1989 had

been the victims of the government's obsession with privatisation. He said that security at their base had been put in the hands of a private firm that had failed to do the job.

Mr Hattersley promised that under Labour all private security firms would have to be licensed and their activities would be restricted. "Most of them are incompetent, many of them are corrupt and some are run by known criminals," Mr Hattersley said. "Let them transport payroll cash, let them patrol building sites, but they cannot in any sense replace the police."

In a speech concluding the conference, Mr Hattersley said that in 13 years of "ruthless individualism" the poor, the elderly and the disadvantaged had been sacrificed to Conservative political dogma.

Here is the news at half ten... or maybe not

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

NEWS at Ten could become the News at Eight or even the News at Half Ten next year if ITV executives bow to commercial pressures and clear peak-time schedules for popular dramas and blockbuster films.

Some ITV companies, including Central and Yorkshire, have recommended that the network considers moving ITN's flagship news programme to 7pm or 8pm to avoid irritating viewers wanting to watch films uninterrupted by a half-hour news break. This, they think, could stop viewers from switching to satellite channels while also maximising

revenue by attracting a larger audience than *News at Ten*'s current 7.5 million.

Others worry that moving the news might reduce advertising revenue by millions of pounds, as the *News at Ten* slot attracts the highest proportion of up-market viewers at any time in the ITV schedule. *News at Ten*'s main advertising break is worth £80 million a year to ITV.

David Mannion, editor of ITN for ITV, said: "ITN regards the current debates about the scheduling of *News at Ten* as perfectly legitimate. But we also believe that quality news is a money-maker on *ITV News at Ten* has the strongest brand name of any news programme. ITV will have to

think hard before moving it."

Advertisers believe a move to 7pm would spell disaster. "It would be sheer insanity," according to Christine Walker, chief executive of Zenith Media, the advertising air time agency. "The people who want *News at Ten* are not available to view at 7pm and those who do watch television at 7pm will be watching soaps. The BBC would nab the audience, and ITV would have a hard time winning it back."

ITV companies such as Carlton, Anglia and Meridian would also be hurt by a move to 7pm, as people get home much later from work in London and the South-East. *News at Eight* would get a bigger AB audi-

ence, but there is still a question whether it would achieve ratings as high as *News at Ten*.

Audiences for BBC 2's *Newsnight* at 10.30pm have declined over the past several years, with ITN's *Channel 4 News* at 7pm overtaking it in ratings for the first time recently. Both attract much smaller audiences than the BBC's *Nine O'Clock News* at 6.57pm and *News at Ten* at 7.5 million.

Dick Emery, ITN's commercial director who is conducting research on possible moves, said: "It is hardly a straightforward matter. There are swings and roundabouts, but at issue is how ITV can maintain its up-market audience."

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Abduction victim returns home

Ransom man urges kidnapper to give up

BY PETER VICTOR

KEVIN Watts, the estate agent who delivered the ransom that led to the release of Stephanie Slater, called on her kidnapper yesterday to give himself up as Miss Slater returned home for the first time since her ordeal.

At a press conference yesterday, Miss Slater, aged 25, looked happy and relaxed. She said that she was well and that it was wonderful to be home with her parents at their home in Great Barr, Birmingham. Mr Watts, by contrast, looked pale and said that he was not feeling well and had not yet returned to work.

He said that thoughts of the kidnapper made him angry. Sitting beside his wife, Julie, he said: "I have not broken down or felt a great deal but, as time goes by, I am getting more angry. I still have not really got over the ordeal."

He said that he left to deliver the £175,000 ransom in a confident frame of mind, which left him as he came to the driveway in South Yorkshire where the cash was handed over. "By the time I was halfway down the driveway, he was in control of my mind, my thoughts and my life," he said. "When I reached the safety of the main road after the drop, I had no idea what the outcome would be." He

praised Miss Slater, saying: "I think she is a remarkable person to go through what she has been through. She is incredible."

Miss Slater had been receiving counselling at the Priory Hospital, Edgbaston, Birmingham, since her release on January 28. Yesterday, she accepted a huge bouquet of flowers from the police and a note saying: "Best wishes and welcome home." She said: "I still cannot say much at the moment but I feel quite well. I am glad it is all over."

West Midlands police said that Miss Slater had finished her debriefing but still had further statements to



Watts: anger towards kidnapper is growing

make. Det Supt Mick Williams, the senior investigating officer, said that police were getting closer to finding out where Miss Slater was held during the eight-day kidnapping. "It is believed that she was kept in a large metal tank inside a barn. Although blindfolded, Miss Slater said she thought that it was a rainwater butt or a freight container."

Lynn Dart, the mother of Julie Dart, the murdered teenager whose killing is being linked with the kidnapping, said yesterday that she wanted to meet Miss Slater. Mrs Dart, aged 38, told BBC Radio Leeds that Miss Slater was a form of link to her murdered daughter. "She has been in the position Julie was in before she was actually killed and I'd like to know how he treated her. Was he gentle with her, was he rough with her? Did he bind her, did he tie her hands and feet? I'd like to know if Julie suffered."

"Did she know she was going to be killed at the end of her kidnapping, or did she think she'd be let go? Was she blindfolded, because she hated that. Was she tied up - she wouldn't be able to stand then."

"It's little things like that I want to know and maybe Stephanie can tell me," she said.



Happy and relaxed: Miss Slater with her cat, Pipkin, at her home yesterday

DNA test revives Blakelock enquiry

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE hunt for the murderers of Keith Blakelock, the police constable hacked to death in the Broadwater Farm riot in 1985, is to be revived after an important advance in genetic fingerprinting techniques.

Scotland Yard confirmed yesterday that a team of 18 detectives would re-interview witnesses from the original investigation, and that scientific evidence would be re-examined. The re-examination will centre on the overalls worn by PC Blakelock, aged 40, and on the weapons recovered by police after the murder, in Tottenham, north London.

The flame-proof overalls, punctured by more than 40 stab holes, are to be subjected to a new high-speed test for DNA readings to try to establish genetic profiles of the mob that attacked the unarmed officer.

The DNA readings will be matched against those obtained from the weapons and from PC Blakelock's body. The matching will enable police to identify which weapons were used and to build profiles of who handled them. It is estimated that up to 30 people were involved in the killing.

The revival of the investigation was ordered by Sir Peter Imbert, Metropolitan police commissioner, after the murder convictions of Winston Silcott, Mark Braithwaite and Engin Raghip were quashed by the appeal court.

CBI wants more pupil contact with firms

BY JOHN O'LEARY
HIGHER EDUCATION
CORRESPONDENT

SCHOOLS still do not work closely enough with firms in spite of a big increase in contact over the past five years, says a Confederation of British Industry report to be published this week.

A CBI survey shows that 78 per cent of education authorities now have formal agreements between firms and at least some schools, compared with only 4 per cent in 1987.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development says Britain leads Europe in the degree of contact between education and business. But the CBI believes that the process stops short of the integration needed to have a significant impact. The report, *Education Business Partnerships*, recommends that firms should be involved in the teaching and assessment of all subjects.

● Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, was urged yesterday to take control of an east London opt-out school torn by a dispute between teachers and governors.

After police were called in on Friday for a second time, Nigel de Gruchy, leader of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, said the situation at Stratford grant maintained school was "virtually out of control".

Education Times
L&T section, page 7

Nurse 'humiliated' by new grade

Jeremy Laurance talks to two experienced nurses about their sense of injustice over the reorganised clinical grading system

HUMILIATION pushed Ann Coombs into turning her back on the national health service. Aged 48, she had spent 29 years as a nurse, the last 20 of them as a night sister at Dulwich Hospital, south London, until she resigned last April.

The final straw was being told to hand back her sister's uniform after losing the first stage of her appeal against the downgrading of her job to staff nurse level, under the clinical grading system introduced in April 1988. "I protested. I had had the sister's uniform for 20 years and I didn't feel like giving it up," she said. "But it had no effect. So I resigned."

Ms Coombs now works part-time for British Gas in occupational health. "I'm earning a lot less but, because of the appreciation of what I do, I am thoroughly enjoying it," she said. "I loved working for the NHS because I really believe in it as an institution. But I could not stay with it."

According to the Royal College of Nursing, the appeals process has failed to rectify many of the anomalies thrown up by the regrading

exercise. "In one hospital, nine cases were conceded, and the nurses upgraded, but 20 more were rejected even though they were doing virtually identical jobs," Phil Gray, director of labour relations, said.

Sheila Wright, aged 59, a nurse at Farnborough Hospital, Surrey, for 40 years, was given an F grade along with most night sisters, one level below the G awarded to most day sisters. "It created uproar because we had all been doing the same job," she said.

As the most senior nurse in her department, Ms Wright was first to reach a regional appeal in October 1990. She was turned down, but a year later two of her colleagues were upgraded. "It is disgraceful," she said. "We feel degraded, that is the word."

Mr Gray said that many nurses who "meandered through the appeals system" were left with a strong sense of injustice. "What is worrying is that there doesn't seem to be any sign of a real willingness to find a way of resolving it."

Grading row, page 1



Wright: lost appeal but colleagues upgraded



Coombs: quit when told to hand back uniform

Ministers to climb down over asylum aid

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government is expected this week to back down over proposals to withdraw legal aid advice from immigrants and asylum-seekers.

Strong opposition to the proposals had already forced ministers to say that they would not proceed with the proposals until satisfactory alternative arrangements were in place.

However, the United Kingdom Immigrants' Advisory Service, which the government hoped would take over from solicitors the job of advising immigrants and asylum seekers, has steadfastly opposed the plan. No details have been published in the seven months since it was announced and ministers are now expected to announce an indefinite delay.

A shift by the government over the proposals, which have been accused of criticism from throughout the legal profession, might help passage of the Asylum Bill, which comes before the Lords for second reading today.

The bill has also been widely criticised. In a briefing paper today the Law Society says the proposals will result in genuine asylum-seekers being returned to their countries to face possible imprisonment, torture or death.

Under the bill, asylum-seekers who want to appeal against a refusal of refugee status will have to seek leave to appeal. That means that many asylum-seekers will lose their present right to appeal and will have fewer rights than any other appellants, according to the society.

It says that the lack of oral hearings for leave to appeal against decisions will deprive many of the chance to present their case at the vital point of entry to the appeals system.

Police fight church pillage

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

POLICE forces throughout Britain are arranging seminars with church insurance companies to help clergy to safeguard church property.

According to the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, which insures more than 95 per cent of Anglican churches, much of the property stolen from churches ends up abroad. Some goods go to South America, where it is fashionable to have a medieval font or eagle lectern in one's hall. German collectors like medieval oak carvings. Plate often goes to the Continent.

Clergy at the next seminar in Gloucester in March will hear how church relics worth millions of pounds are being stolen throughout Britain. The thieves show

little respect for religious tradition, the dead or the living in stealing to satisfy the demands of overseas collectors.

Organised gangs take gold and silver plate, paintings, altars, fonts, stained glass windows and even ancient door knobs.

In recent months, silver plate has been stolen from a Norfolk church, a half-ton cherub has been stolen from St Botolph's in the City of London, and a Jacobean altar and a medieval vestment chest have been taken at Pleshey, Essex. A monumental brass of Henry Parmenter, who died in 1427, was stolen from Hildersham, Cambridgeshire, last June. Leslie Smith, of the Monumental Brass Society, be-

lieves that some thefts are done to order, but said that constant vigilance was needed to deter opportunists. "From the 13th century to the 18th, monuments to the dead were one of the most important expressions of English art. Their loss is as serious as the theft of any major exhibit from one of the national collections," he said.

The Roman Catholic weekly *The Universe* says that half Britain's churches may be vandalised, broken into or set on fire this year. Jim Scott, of the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, said: "This is our national heritage that is being stolen, and every item that goes missing means the church is demeaned."

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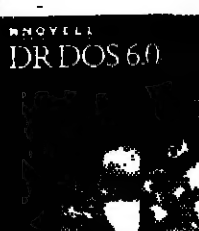


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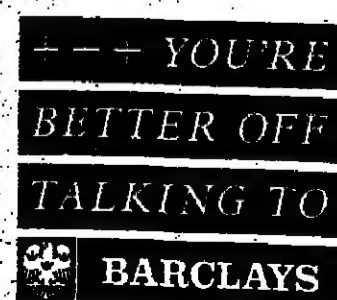
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A 'ferocious' campaign to influence tomorrow's vote on tobacco advertising has led to calls for controls

EC reels from assault by tobacco lobby

THE biggest army of highly paid parliamentary lobbyists ever mustered will be hanging on the result of a vote in Strasbourg tomorrow to see if the millions of pounds they have spent have swayed the democratic process.

They are part of what has been called the most ferocious lobbying campaign seen in Europe and their aim has been to deter the European parliament from imposing a blanket ban on tobacco advertising. Between them they have used virtually every lobbying ploy, including offering free trips and free meals to members of the parliament and bombarding them with briefings and information packs.

Since the parliament was inaugurated, the number of lobbyists has grown from one Belgian representing Shell to more than 3,000 representing a thousand causes. Armed with passes which give them ready access to the parliament's corridors in Brussels and Strasbourg, they have harassed members at every opportunity. Desperate to discover what was being proposed at an early stage of the tobacco legislation, some lobbyists walked off with all the draft documents set out in readiness for a committee meeting.

Lobbyists have become such a nuisance that MEPs are demanding havens where they can work in peace, tightened security barring access to unwelcome lobbyists, a register enabling them to identify lobbyists and whom they represent, and a code of conduct with powers to bar those found guilty of breaking the rules.

Lobbying was described as "a noble calling" by Daniel Gueguen, of the European sugar manufacturer, when representatives of 50 interest groups were invited to attend a public hearing of the parliament's rules committee last month to discuss the controls. But he did admit that some used their influence "at restaurants and hunting parties, on the golf course and even by

Tony Dawe reports on fears of abuse by an army of political persuaders and, right, meets a leading exponent

direct payments". Marc Galle, the Belgian Socialist MEP heading the investigation into lobbying, said: "There is a real risk of abuses and we might even see the democratic decision-making process encroached upon."

Nicholas Phillips, regarded as the doyen of British lobbyists in Brussels, said: "The fear of a scandal undoubtedly underlies the decision of MEPs to look at lobbying."

Tom Spencer, the Conservative member for West Surrey, earned angry rebukes when he claimed that his efforts to persuade the agriculture committee to meet in public had failed because some members did not relish the idea of their performances being judged by the interest groups they had promised to represent.

The tobacco lobby played little part in the hearing but, according to Mr Phillips, is ever present in the parliament. It is led by such as John Leper and Catherine de Vallois of the Confederation of EC Cigarette Manufacturers, Peter Anderson of Britain's Tobacco Advisory Council, Lionel Stanbrook, European affairs director of the Advertising Association, and David Pollock, representing newspaper and magazine publishers. Philip Morris, the giant American food and tobacco company, has a dozen Euro-lobbyists based in Brussels and even small pipe manufacturers have a man to argue their corner.

None will discuss budgets, but it is safe to say they run into many millions of pounds, which is in addition to the money spent on national advertising campaigns. Independent consultants charge at least £100 an hour and a

company would expect to earn £50,000 a year in fees from each of its main clients.

The tobacco lobby has already stalled the advertising ban once, calling on an expensive array of lawyers to challenge the parliament's constitutional right to impose such a ban under Article 100 (A) of the Treaty of Rome. Ten days ago, the parliament's legal affairs committee rejected the challenge, but officials expect fresh attempts to stall a vote at tomorrow's session. If the ban is approved, the lobbyists will redouble their efforts to try to ensure that enough ministers oppose it at their meeting in May to prevent it from becoming law.

Mr Stanbrook said: "The argument that the ban represents a challenge to freedom of expression has outlived its usefulness, but the legal argument still carries some weight. It is time now to plug the trade protection line. We must point out that the community is supposed to be a free market and that the ban is being supported by some countries to protect their own state monopolies in tobacco."

The ramifications of the ban are so vast that more money is certain to be forthcoming for a continued lobby. Florus Wijnbeek, the Dutch Liberal MEP who chairs the rules committee, said that all the lobbyists, not just those acting for tobacco, are employed because they can be worth their weight in gold to the interests they represent.

"Millions and millions of pounds can rest on the decisions of the parliament," he said. "For example, a few millimetres difference in the maximum permitted length of a lorry, or a few minutes' difference in the time a lorry driver must rest, can dramatically affect profits in the haulage industry."

The growth of lobbying has been encouraged by some spectacular successes in recent years, the most notable being the campaign orchestrated by Greenpeace which



Maestro of the lobby: Lionel Stanbrook, who says that variations on a theme are the key to success

led to a ban on the import of seal skins from Canada. Lord Plumb, then a leading British MEP and a committee chairman, received 4,000 postcards on the issue.

Mr Wijnbeek, like most members and Community officials, has received attractive offers from lobbyists: in his case, a foreign holiday, which he declined, from a transport company interested in gaining his support when he was chairman of the transport committee. Mr Stanbrook recalled that, when he was a community official, Philip Morris offered him a trip to the Monte Carlo grand prix.

Most members, and even some lobbyists, are disturbed by the freedom which interest groups enjoy in Brussels and Strasbourg. Tony Venables, who represents the Euro Citizen Action Service, told the rules committee hearing: "Some lobbyists are proud of access to all buildings. This is very undemocratic, for we are neither publicly elected members nor appointed officials and should not have privileged access."

One of the possible solutions the rules committee is examining is to provide the lobbyists with separate buildings or offices to try to prevent them from wandering the corridors of parliament. Mr Venables has also suggested a parliamentary liaison service in Strasbourg to provide interest groups with better access to information.

Mr Wijnbeek said that the parliament should consider providing the infrastructure to give lobbyists better conditions so that they can "work adequately and in a dignified manner".

Persuasion's Paganini effect

"A successful lobby must be a many-plundered thing, comprising messages and communications of different sorts"

maximum you need to communicate with," he says.

In keeping with his Paganini theory, he will vary his letters according to his target's personalities and interests, and hope that they lead to meetings with the recipients and, eventually, their superiors. If necessary, "Successful lobbying relies on direct contact on a social and personal level."

Mr Stanbrook is also a key player in the European Advertising Tripartite and will be ensuring that his colleagues in other countries keep up similar pressure, especially in Holland, Denmark and Greece, where ministers may be wavering in their opposition to the ban. As the May meeting comes during Portugal's presidency of the Community, he will also write to the Portuguese health and foreign ministers and their aides. As May approaches, he plans to vary his

argument and raise again the "dubious" legal justification of a ban.

Mr Stanbrook is well placed to advise on swaying European powers, for he has worked for the Commission and the parliament. This is the advice he gave to a recent London conference on lobbying in Europe.

"A successful lobby must be a many-plundered thing, comprising messages and communications of different sorts, brought together to achieve a focused impact. This means, quite literally, sitting down with a blank piece of paper and writing down all the objectives, then working through them to see how they can be achieved. Next, write down as many messages as you can think of which will progress these objectives."

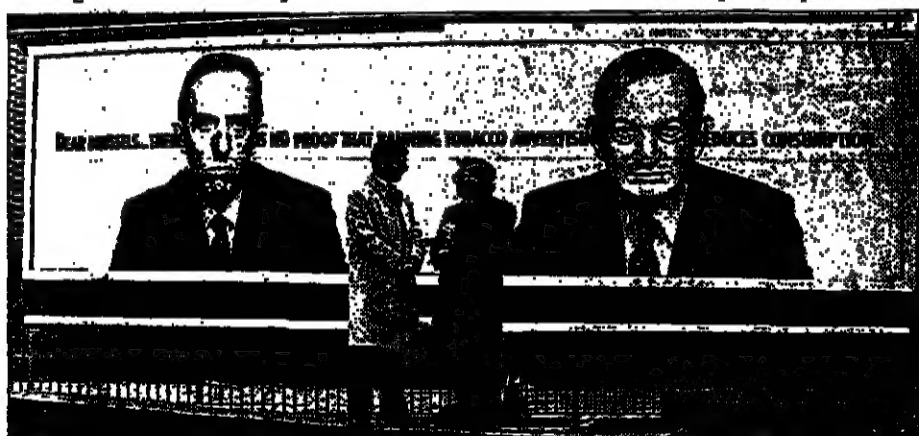
"Take care to think in terms of your targets: it is vital to know them before you

start. Each one will have a different set of sensitivities and your messages must be tailored to them."

"But the Paganini effect does not stop there. Look again at the targets: if you don't have lowly commission officials as well as the most senior ones, if you are not reaching political group advisers as well as MEPs, then you are wasting your time and money."

As far as the European parliament is concerned, the political group secretariat represents the great unspeakable secret of effective lobbying. In the commission, the bottom up, rather than top down, approach is even more important."

Mr Stanbrook asked his fellow lobbyists to agree on "a self-denying ordinance": not to write to Sir Leon, the competition commissioner, or try to arrange a meeting with him for 12 months. He said that Sir Leon and his staff get "excessively irritated" by requests for meetings which are inappropriate or badly targeted.



Smoke screen: Chris Bullock, left, of the Tobacco Advisory Council, and John Sharkey, advertising director, before a council campaign poster in London

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Gay men may be third sex

By Nigel Hawkes
SCIENCE EDITOR

HOMOSEXUAL men may be a third sex, with mental abilities distinct from those of heterosexual men and women, a Canadian study has suggested.

In psychological tests where consistent differences have been observed between men and women, homosexual men take a middle place. Sandra Witelson of McMaster University has discovered.

In tests of spatial ability, they are not as good as heterosexual men but better than women. In tests of verbal and manual fluency they are better than heterosexual men but not as good as women.

Combined with earlier work that showed anatomical differences in the brains of homosexual men, the study reinforces suggestions that sexual orientation might be determined by neurological factors, possibly caused by sex hormone levels in the womb.

Other studies have linked the changes associated with homosexuality with lower levels of testosterone at crucial stages of foetal development.

In the Canadian study, a series of tests were conducted on three groups of 38 subjects: homosexual men, heterosexual men and heterosexual women. Professor Witelson says that the results cannot be explained by environmental factors or by a deliberate attempt to be different, but must reflect internal differences in the brain.

Abducted girl found naked

A girl aged four was abducted in a playground near her home in Nottingham yesterday and found naked in another play area more than two hours later.

The girl, from the St Ann's district, was found crying in Beacon Hill Road park by a passer-by. Her face and body were bruised. Doctors said that she had not been sexually assaulted.

Police found her clothes at the playground from which she was taken. She was wearing a pink jacket, grey jeans and black sweater and had been playing with a red and yellow scooter. Police appealed for witnesses.

Cottages hit

A thatched cottage set on fire in Pitt, Hampshire, was the 14th to be hit in the village in the past three years. Police are making house-to-house enquiries to try to find the arsonist.

Stonehenge ban

A four-mile exclusion zone is to be enforced around the ancient stones at Stonehenge, Wiltshire, for four days around the summer solstice to keep out hippies.

Drug arrests

Police have arrested 13 people and seized drugs including LSD, amphetamines and cocaine in Devizes and Chippenham, Wiltshire.

Bond winners

Premium bond winners this week: £100,000, bond 9EK 043940, from Herefordshire (£6,300 holding); £50,000, 18KZ 23187, West Midlands (£3,060); £25,000, 4NS 54682, Buckinghamshire (£10,000).

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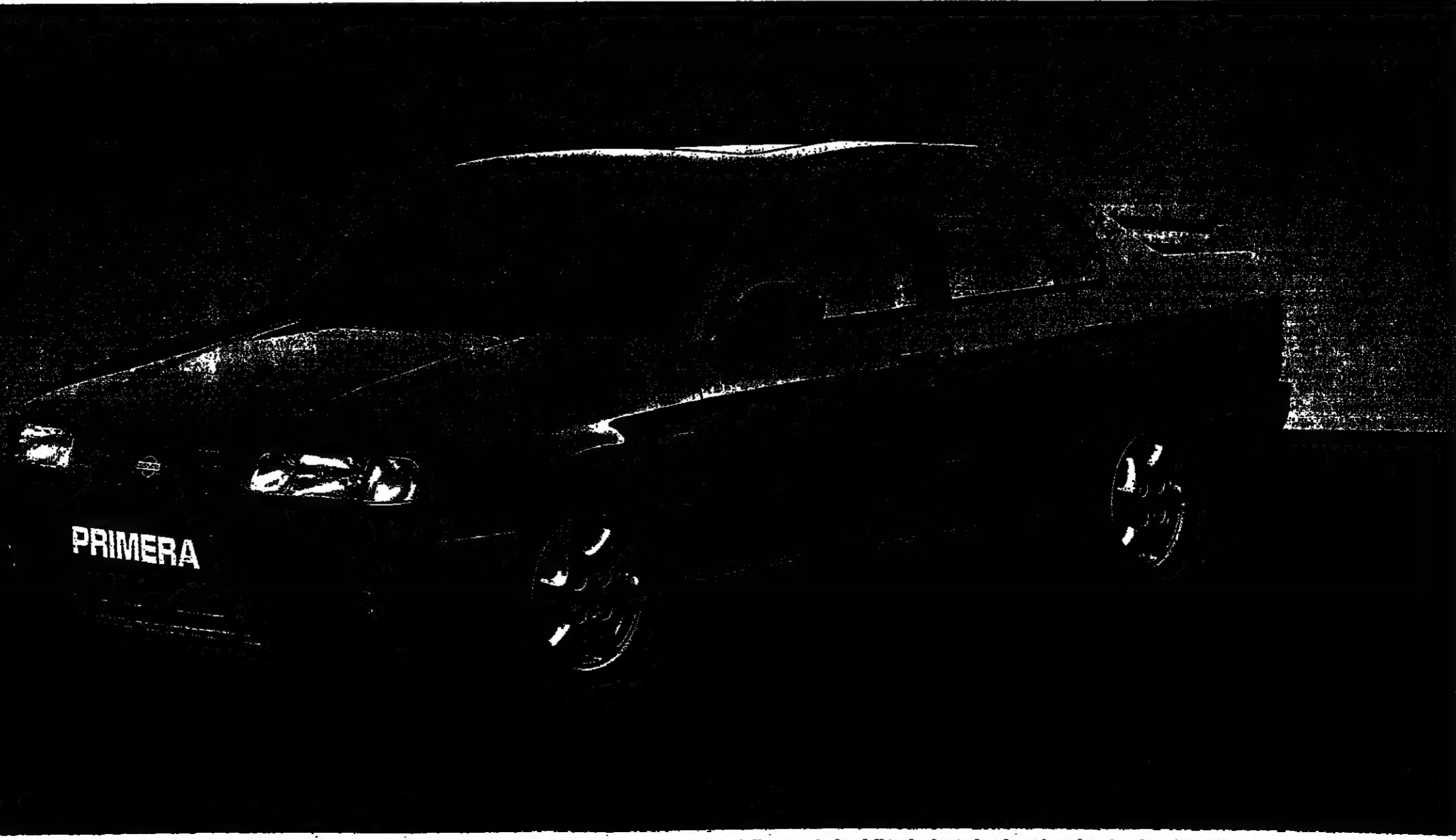
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Blackshirts rally with communists

Anti-Semites strut on Moscow stage

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

THE passions unleashed by economic hardship were displayed in all their ugliness on the streets of Moscow yesterday as blackshirts and communists rubbed shoulders with snarling old women in a demonstration against President Yeltsin's attempts to dismantle the planned economy.

Communist demonstrators marched through Manezh Square, brandishing red flags and portraits of Marx. Their numbers were larger and angrier than expected, with more than 20,000 demanding the head of Boris Yeltsin, the man they revile as a "Judas". Mr Yeltsin and his reformers are accused of selling out the country for a ha'penny of American aid.

Yet the fact that the age of protesters averaged about 50 was a reminder that their brand of totalitarianism is probably no more likely to return than the Soviet state, whose flag they hoisted in the square with the aid of a gas balloon. Amid denunciations of Mr Yeltsin's arms cuts and the machinations of international capitalism, the protesters roared their approval for an absurd but potentially dangerous plan to reconvene the full Soviet parliament next month.

About the same number of enlightened, middle-class Muscovites loyally, if rather

sullenly, answered a call by liberal groups to show their determination to defend the Russian parliament from the growing "red-brown" threat of communists and fascists.

Even political organisers like the Moscow radicals find it hard to muster demonstrations in support of a government, particularly one that has pushed many people to the brink of poverty. So earnest liberal orators concentrated on denouncing secret reactionaries in the Yeltsin leadership and, with limited success, tried to lead their well-mannered supporters in chants of "Resign".

If the weekend belonged to self-confident young men in black tunics or tsarist uniforms who on Saturday triumphantly disrupted a congress of moderate Russian nationalists and on Sunday mingled happily with the communist crowd. Supporters of the anti-Semitic Pamyat movement forced the organisers of the conference — whose guest of honour was Aleksandr Rutskoi, the vice-president — to provide a platform for one of their leaders, Dmitri Vasilyev.

Denouncing genteel varieties of loyalty to the motherland, the portly, balding speaker demanded: "How is

it that people are only whispering, speaking in an undertone, the name of the real enemy threatening our state? That enemy is Zionism."

Mr Rutskoi had delivered a hymn of praise to the Russian past that was astonishing for the vulgarity and virulence of its attacks on the cabinet's economic policies, but also careful to dissociate patriotism from racism. He accused the government of "performing an enemy on the nation" through its indifference to "pensioners dropping dead in milk queues and schoolchildren fainting from hunger". He called for an "economic state of emergency".

For all his passionate talk of "Russia's mission as the humble saviour of the world", and the little-known glories of the "Russian merchant", part of his message was that it is still possible to be a nationalist and offer at least conditional support to Mr Yeltsin.

These events will increase pressure on Mr Yeltsin to jettison his cabinet and concede ground to Mr Rutskoi's type of nationalism. Mr Yeltsin is being urged to adopt a more nationalist economic policy by the emerging class of "Russian merchants" who have transformed themselves from Communist bureaucrats to captains of the new stock exchanges.

At the level of political leaders, there is no sign yet of nationalists and communists forging an overt alliance. Mr Rutskoi and Mr Vasilyev were both very anti-communist in their speeches, while yesterday's communist orators distanced themselves from the rabid but increasingly popular nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy.

Yet on the street there is a palpable sense of the "red-brown" alliance being forged — based on common longing for a strong, militaristic Rus-



Goodbye to the gulag: the ten last political prisoners leaving Perm-35 forced labour camp in Russia. Their release, which marked a symbolic end to one of the grimmest chapters in 20th-century history, is intended to give substance to

President Yeltsin's claim at the United Nations last week that "there are no political prisoners in free Russia". Since a year ago, former Soviet authorities claimed that they had freed all Perm prisoners convicted under article 70 of the

penal code, which proscribes "agitation and propaganda against the state". But human rights groups claimed that remaining inmates had committed crimes through politically motivated acts. The institution won the Soviet Union the

opprobrium of the world. The freeing of the ten will also underpin Mr Yeltsin's assertion that his country, which in its Soviet incarnation used to react with anger at Western criticism of its human rights record, now welcomes foreign monitoring

Romania poll gives hope to opposition

FROM ADRIAN FOREMAN IN BUCHAREST

ROMANIA'S opposition parties hope that their fortunes have been revived by yesterday's local elections, the first since communist rule.

The elections for mayors and councillors are being seen as a dry run for a general election expected by May.

The National Salvation Front, overwhelming victor in the May 1990 general election, is expected to look vulnerable when the local election results begin to come in today. An opinion poll in Bucharest put the front in second place, behind the Democratic Convention, an electoral alliance, including five of the largest parliamentary opposition parties.

Romania's 16.5 million voters have increasingly blamed the front for winter economic troubles. Many homes remain without heating and hot water, measures to privatise agriculture have made some food shortages worse, and inflation hovers around 400 per cent as unemployment rises. Opposition allegations that the front contains too many former communists intent on maintaining power have been taken up by newspapers.

Forty-two of the parties have formed seven electoral alliances to try to avoid splitting the opposition vote. With more than 130,000 candidates nationwide — in Bucharest there are 33 candidates for mayor — ballot papers were looking more like small books.

At a meeting with the observers, Theodor Stolojan, the prime minister — heading an interim coalition government until the general election — said every effort was being made to ensure the polls were free and fair. The Peasant party, part of the Democratic Convention, said electoral lists contained the names of those dead.

Western aid, page 1

CAP's mastermind reflects on the monster he created

Stockpiles of food and a crippling budget are the legacy of a centralised farm policy, George Brock writes from Wapswerveen, The Netherlands

DRIVE three hours north from Brussels into the rich flatlands of the northern Netherlands and you arrive at an austere elegant 17th-century farmhouse. Here you will find the tall, stooping Sicco Mansholt sadly contemplating the ruin of his creation, the European Community's common agricultural policy.

Thirty years ago, Dr Mansholt was the Brussels farm commissioner who welded the farm support policies of the EC's original six states into a centralised system for guaranteeing farmers' incomes. But the policy turned out to be an uncontrollable monster gobbling nearly two thirds of the Community budget and stockpiling food.

"Mountains of butter, mountains of cereals, mountains of milk powder," Dr Mansholt murmurs.

Today, EC farm ministers meet in Brussels to continue discussions on the latest plans to tame farm spending. Now

aged 83 and from a life as a farmer, economist and Dutch politician, Dr Mansholt is a little deaf but otherwise still giving advice to the men struggling with his legacy. He admits that the CAP today has become a threat to the whole international trading system.

Dan Quayle, the American vice-president, yesterday even made veiled threats that the United States might pull its troops out of Europe without a successful conclusion to General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) talks.

Dr Mansholt's explanation for the debacle is that his first designs would have worked had they not been betrayed and distorted by weak politicians who were afraid of their

own politically powerful farmers. "The design was good, the method was wrong," he said.

Dr Mansholt's plan had envisaged that if the system overproduced, controls would bring down the rate of production. But those checks and balances had been weakened by the time the EC began running a dairy surplus in 1968. "We never saw stabilisation as an absolute guarantee for the farmers," he said, "but the Community could never agree on measures to cut production."

But shouldn't someone have had an inkling that the system wouldn't deliver? The pressures to cobble together any "common" policy were evidently great. "It was a political aim. We did not want

again world war two. We wanted to bridge the Franco-German mistrust. It was not a question of solving agriculture or world problems; we wanted European unity. For a common market, a common outer tariff was not enough in agriculture. We had to unite six national systems for protecting farmers. And we succeeded in doing so." Whatever is done, Dr Mansholt thinks, must first stop the EC's distortion of the world's food markets. "One of the reasons for hunger in Africa and South America, low food production and the flow of people to the towns is that world prices are too low. That's partly our policy — our fault and the Americans' fault, too," Dr Mansholt believes that the current proposals in the GATT talks for shrinking farm subsidies will not work because too many subsidised exports will still be dumped on the world market.

Gatt, page 1
Leading article, page 13
Ecu growth, page 17

Asylum-seekers add to Munich worries

FROM IAN MURRAY IN MUNICH

"MOHAMMED" is a penniless Ghanaian living temporarily in some of the most expensive rented accommodation in Germany — a container home parked on land where the annual Oktoberfest is held.

He shares a four-berth cabin with three of his countrymen, waiting to hear whether they have been granted asylum status, which will allow them to stay in Germany. They are among the 250 new refugees sent to Munich every week who are stretching the city's housing resources to breaking point.

The nationalities of the residents in the 43 containers read like a roll call of the world's poorer troubled areas: Romanians, Kenyans, Tam-

ils and, most numerous of all, newly independent Croats wait in hope for permission to stay. "Mohammed" has only been there a week and is still too frightened to give his real name. "I did not prepare to leave my country. I had to run away. This was the only possible place to come."

Each refugee has his own tale of woe, but Hans Stitzle, who runs Munich's social services, has his own difficulties. His department is already at full stretch dealing with homelessness among Germans. The city estimates it needs 50,000 new homes.

Munich's problems are repeated up and down the country as asylum-seekers from all over the world continue to pour into Germany.

Roman soap gets the Marchesa in a lather

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

CARLO Ripa Di Meana, the European Community commissioner for the environment, was unable to prevent the screening at the weekend of an Italian television series believed to be based on his *Dolce Vita* lifestyle in Rome with his wife, the Marchesa Marina Ripa Di Meana.

However, Judge Domenico Bonaccorsi ruled that the third episode of the political soap opera, *Piazza di Spagna*, be modified so as not to offend the sensibilities of the fashionable couple. Before and after the programme was broadcast, the Canale 5 station was ordered to show a placard declaring that the heroine of the drama, Countess Armida De Tolle, played by an obscure Polish actress, Grazyna Szapolowska, was "pure fantasy" and bore no relation to the marchesa, aged 49.

The *Dallas*-style series paints a lurid picture of Roman high society revolving around the frenetic world of the Countess De Tolle, who

schemes, bribes and manipulates politicians and corrupt Sicilian businessmen together with her lover, "the honourable Nasso", a lookalike of the elegant commissioner.

Silvio Berlusconi, the owner of Canale 5, travelled to Rome on Friday and presented his apologies to the Ripa Di Meanas at their apartment in the Via della Croce, near the Spanish Steps. "He was so contrite, really very displeased," the Marchesa Marina told *Il Messaggero*. "He admitted not even having seen the film in spite of everything that erupted in the press."

But the Calabrian society hostess said she and her second husband would press for a written apology from Signor Berlusconi, not least because the show had upset her relatives. "My mother had a crying fit when she saw the first episode, where this 'countess' whose hairstyle is like mine, who dresses like me, has two pug dogs like me, an only daughter and a lover



Marchesa Ripa Di Meana: her anger at a *Dallas*-style television series is shared by Socialists who comes and goes from Brussels, plays the mediator in illicit business between high finance and politics. "There is no doubt that if this identification between De Tolle and me was allowed, all the audience would have continued in a certain sense to refer also to Carlo, my

uninhibited, unprejudiced and anti-conformist does not give anyone the right to feast on my personality."

Signor Ripa Di Meana was quoted by *La Repubblica* as saying *Piazza di Spagna*, which has been watched by as many as six million Italians, has incurred the displeasure of Bettino Craxi, the Socialist leader, who is worried about the image of his party as Italy's parliamentary election on April 5 draws near.

Craxi is in the electoral campaign like everyone. He was very irritated in seeing one of the figures of his party, never involved in embarrassing stories, reduced to the role of organiser of sharp practice.

The Marchesa Marina has been a prominent figure in Italian gossip columns since she described her many loves in an autobiography. "Now I am waiting for written excuses from Berlusconi," she told *Il Messaggero*. "Obviously he can do it for me through the newspapers he owns. Human beings are not cannon fodder for television."

Yeltsin's time to work miracles is running out

The West's programme of aid for Russia, generous though it is, will not be enough to stave off economic anarchy, Roger Boyes writes

Only a huge, immediate and imaginative injection of foreign capital can now save President Yeltsin's market reform programme and stave off economic anarchy in Russia. The demonstrations at the weekend — by hardline nationalists, by neo-communists, and a counter-march by pro-Yeltsin democrats — are a prodigious reminder of how fast Boris Yeltsin's authority has crumbled as he tries to pull order out of chaos.

This week's aid shipments from the West and Japan, though large and welcome, will not save the day. Mr Yeltsin in his swift tour of North America, Britain and France, made plain how much he needs a round stabilisation fund of about \$5 billion and about the same amount for imports of food and medicine.

He needs this within about six weeks, long before the institutions such as the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development can come up with even partial solutions. The IMF will take time to process the Russian application, and the EBRD is due only in April to lift its restrictions on credits

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to the Commonwealth of Independent States. Apart from the usual bureaucratic hurdles, there are important practical questions to be answered.

As the head of the US Export-Import Bank, John Macomber, said the other day: "We need to know who has the authority to contract? Who controls the foreign currency? Who decides if foreigners can invest in their oil and gas business?"

Russian ministers and economists were not bluffing when they threatened recently in Davos that the former Soviet Union may end up as a Yugoslavia magnified by a factor of ten. Russia is making the East European transition to the market, but it is a far more arduous passage and contains far greater risks.

The country has no democratic traditions and only shaky institutions; it has a discontented army; above all it is in the middle of a national identity crisis that is confusing and sowing every attempt to change the economy. The unemployed — about a million but rising fast — are natural recruits for neo-communists and a new breed of

autocratic pretenders. Industrial production has dropped by 22 per cent, price liberalisation has triggered 300 per cent inflation, and the black market is filling the void left behind by the crumbling of the central distribution system.

The Russian government is almost bankrupt, it has no means of gathering tax revenue. Factories have been transferring their hard currency abroad to stave off any attempts by the authorities to confiscate it. There is little doubt that Russia is on the very verge of terrifying hyperinflation.

As Poland found out in 1989, hyperinflation changes all the basic social categories — it destroys savings and the savings instinct, it makes paupers out of the middle class, makes black marketeers out of workers, makes pensioners militant, makes farmers hang on to their livestock and it forces people to emigrate in droves.

There is nothing inherently wrong with the European Community, Japanese and other aid flowing into a disorganised country. It may not all reach the most needy, but that is a fundamental risk of aid donation throughout the world. The problem is the poor match between what the West can afford and the amount that the ex-Soviet republics need.

That might be an argument for swaying the pendulum away from aid towards trade. Russia needs both aid and trade, but above all it needs time.

The Marshall aid programme to Europe in 1947 channelled assistance to relatively modern market economies with strong, if fractured, trading traditions. Russia is in a limbo between systems. It might pull off the kind of economic miracle enjoyed by Germany under the former chancellor, Ludwig Erhard — but it will take 25 years, not the eight or nine needed by the post-war Germans. Mr Yeltsin is lucky if he has three months.

Those fat-bellied Western aircraft landing in Moscow this week are a sign of undoubted Western goodwill. But if the West is serious about saving Mr Yeltsin's vision of a modern Russia — rather than the introverted one sought by so many demonstrators, last weekend — it needs to set up a stabilisation fund now.

Peter Riddell, page 12

Serbs set to adopt UN plan

Belgrade: Deputies of the assembly of Croatia's rebel Serbian enclave of Krajina gathered yesterday for an extraordinary session, in which they were expected to accept the United Nations peace plan for Yugoslavia (Tim Judah writes). They met in Glina, 140 miles north of Krajina's capital Knin, for a session which Dr Milan Babic, the enclave's leader, called "invalid".

On Saturday the Serbian foreign minister Vladimir Jovanovic said that the deployment of a UN peacekeeping force in Yugoslavia was a matter of days and that Dr Babic's opposition to the plan was simply "psychological".

Dr Babic had called a session of the Krajina assembly for today at which he planned to call for a referendum.

Battle bones

Brussels: Archaeologists in southern Belgium have found for the first time the remains of some of the 5,000 soldiers killed in 1745 at the battle of Fontenoy between the French and an Anglo-Dutch army. Sixty skeletons have been dug up. (Reuters)

\$65,000 payout

Jerusalem: Marisa Del Pinto, an Italian tourist who lost an eye during a demonstration by peace activists who formed a "peace chain" round the Old City in December 1989, has received damages of \$65,000 from the Israeli police. (AFP)

Discord erupts

Prague: The Prague Opera Ball, the first since the communist regime fell in 1989, opened to catcalls from more than 100 protesters, who pelted guests with oranges and firecrackers, complaining that the entry price of \$68 was too high. (AFP)

Charge readied

Berlin: Hans Modrow, the last communist prime minister of former East Germany, will be charged for vote-rigging in a 1989 local poll, the *Berliner Morgenpost* said. Herr Modrow chairs the Party of Democratic Socialism. (Reuters)

Jailed again

Nimes: A court here jailed a man for 18 years for raping two American hitchhikers in 1968. Luc Tangorre had been jailed in 1983 for rape and exposing himself, but had been freed after a presidential pardon three months before the attack. (AFP)

Refugee plight

Ravenna: Italian authorities authorised the Butrinti, an Albanian merchant ship with 54 refugees on board, to dock, but the refugees will be repatriated because no immigrants are allowed into the country without work contracts, sources said. (AFP)

After Columbus

Hoya del Morella, Canary Islands: Two Spaniards, Tomás Febu, an engineer, and Jesús González Green, a television journalist, took off in a hot-air balloon to retrace Christopher Columbus's voyage of discovery to America. (Reuters)

Adam's
nails in
array

Tyson C

White House campaign

Rough stuff builds up on election trail

FROM PETER STOTHARD IN NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE

NEW Hampshire's "dirty war" is just beginning. As the daily countdown to America's first presidential election reaches single figures, the candidates' hitherto decorous efforts to attract support are giving way to rougher stuff.

Top targets: the Democrat front-runner Bill Clinton and Republican upstart Patrick Buchanan. Governor Clinton's opponents believe that they have barely scratched the surface of his "character problems". Mr Buchanan, who has so far faced only mild-mannered Oval Office TV commercials from President Bush, will now be directly attacked for his opposition to Operation Desert Storm and his "know nothing" isolationism.

Governor Clinton is clinging on to his leadership in the polls. But an ABC movement (Anyone But Clinton) is gathering fast among party professionals, who fear that the Arkansas governor is "too interesting" to survive another eight months of scrutiny. This sense of alarm is tempered only by the judgement that his chief challenger, Paul Tsongas of Massachusetts, is "too boring" to stay the course. Former Senator Tsongas tied with Governor Clinton in one weekend poll.

The campaign to draft

Mario Cuomo, the New York governor, away from his state budget swamp is the hottest show in town this week. Postcards are being sent to New Hampshire households setting out how, in each voting area, the name of M. Cuomo can be "written in" to supplant the declared candidates. To be off the ballot is a handicap, but this is a sophisticated electorate to whom technical obstacles are no bar to choosing whom they want.

This search for new ABC candidates has enraged the other Democrats who have for weeks been stomping forlorn courses around New Hampshire. Senator Bob Kerrey reacted quietly at first to the reports last Thursday that Governor Clinton had misrepresented his willingness to serve in Vietnam. By the end of the day, the Nebraskaan was openly challenging his rival's credibility. By the weekend the Kerrey campaign featured a legless, one-armed fellow "veteran" who waved the state motto "Live Free or Die" full in the face of Governor Clinton's anti-war protests of the 1960s.

The "draft-dodging" issue is perfect for all Governor Clinton's opponents. Although his justification is minimal, it draws attention to the other alleged "character flaws". He becomes the "Make Love Not War" candidate, as bumper stickers throughout the state illustrate, particularly useful now to Senator Kerrey who has a war record which any ambitious politician would (or perhaps would not) die for.

At the beginning of his campaign, there was admiring recollection of how, on March 14, 1969, Navy SEAL Kerrey led a seven-man special forces team up a 350ft cliff against North Vietnamese saboteurs, how he lost half a leg to a home-made grenade but continued to lead his outnumbered men to victory. His Medal of Honour was the high point of a successful resume in business and state politics which seemed the perfect launchpad to the White House. It never left the launch pad.

Senator Kerrey now has just nine days to achieve lift-off. Senator Kerrey had a reputation for glamour, through film star girlfriend Debra Winger, and intellect, through his nonchalant references to Albert Camus. He seemed the perfect figure for the first post-communist "new order" election. By contrast, Governor Clinton's glamour was tainted; he stayed on top, however, adding idealism to a reputation for getting things done.

A senior official in Cairo said that Egypt maintained its clear policy of not meddling in the affairs of any Arab or foreign country. He added: "Egypt adheres to its principal of respecting the will of peoples."

The Damascus meeting, which opened last Wednesday, founded both on the differing ideologies of the groups involved, and their views on what sort of government should replace Saddam. Observers said the backing showed that, more than a year after the start of the Gulf War, there is still no single opposition figure who commands the respect and support of all the factions.

Fire tragedy

Trippstadt, Germany: Fire swept through a flat in this southwestern German town, killing eight children, their mother and another relative. The children's father was taken to hospital, suffering from severe smoke inhalation. (AP)

Arms arrests

Manila: More than 700 people have been arrested in the Philippines for defying a ban on carrying firearms in the run-up to the presidential election on May 11. (AFP)



Sporting chance: Vice-President Dan Quayle and his wife, Marilyn, paying a surprise visit to Courchevel, site of the ski jump and Nordic competitions in the Winter Olympics. Yesterday's events, pages 29 and 30

Nazi criminals left alone for 20 years

Gabriella Gamini takes a look at the Argentine files on Nazi war criminals made public this week in Buenos Aires by order of President Menem

ARGENTINE authorities took more than two decades to open files and investigate two Nazi war criminals, harboured here after the second world war, although they had been tried in absentia and were sought for the murder of thousands of Jews, according to police files shown to *The Times*.

"The files show that the Nazis were allowed to live here and the police did not cooperate in the international search for them," said Señor Eugenio Rom, director of the national archives.

Walter Kutschmann, held responsible for the death of 1,500 Polish Jews in 1942, arrived in Argentina on January 16, 1948, disguised as a priest with a Spanish passport, and gave his name as Pedro Ricardo Olmo, born in the Ciudad Real in Spain. But it was not until 1975 that the federal police opened a file on him, after repeated requests from leaders of the Jewish community here and the Simon Wiesenthal Centre based in America. Alias Pedro Olmo, Kutschmann entered the country with an identity card issued to priests in Spain.

With this he applied for Argentine citizenship on August 28, 1950, received it, and renewed the application three times after that. He passed as a Catholic priest, although he reported a marriage to Isabel Pospishil, registered in Buenos Aires.

Kutschmann lived at the beachside resort of Miramar, almost 40 years without interference and worked as a sales director for a leading engineering company. A report by federal police in 1977 claims there was "no concrete evidence that Pedro Olmo was

Walter Kutschmann". By July 23, 1984 police were watching his residence in Miramar and had observed "he was extremely upset at some of the enquiries". Finally on November 14, 1984 the police were ordered to "arrest Walter Kutschmann alias Pedro Olmo". But he was never extradited and the next document mentions his death in hospital in August 1986, and his burial as Pedro Olmo.

The file on Eduardo Roschmann, better known as the "butcher of Riga" for his involvement in the killing of 40,000 Jews in a concentration camp at Riga, in Latvia, between 1941 and 1944, shows that police investigations on him started 29 years after his arrival in Argentina. Roschmann, a former head of the SS in charge of the Jewish sector, had been detained by the allied forces but managed to escape.

He arrived in Buenos Aires on October 29, 1948 using the name of Frederick Wegner, claiming he was from Czechoslovakia. He is mentioned for the first time in police files in July 1977, after the German government requested his extradition.

The first federal police report mentions "a German looking man named Wegner working as the manager in a hotel in the province of La Rioja, who could be connected with the Roschmann case".

Repeated visits by police to different addresses in Buenos Aires looking for Roschmann failed to track him down. He died in Paraguay.

British trial, page 5
Hitler's Olympics, in Life & Times

Six killed in Zulu rampage at Soweto

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

SIX people have been killed and nearly 20 injured in fighting between hostel dwellers and residents in the Meadowlands district of Soweto, outside Johannesburg.

Police yesterday opened fire with rubber bullets and birdshot and also used tear gas on mobs rampaging through the streets. The township's Baragwanath hospital said 15 people were being treated for birdshot wounds.

The fighting, in one of Soweto's worst flashpoints, began on Saturday. According to the African National Congress the hostel dwellers, predominantly supporters of the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom party, went on a ram-

Pretenders line up to remove Shamir

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

YITZHAK Shamir, Israel's prime minister, already under domestic and international pressure, faced a challenge yesterday from within his own ranks as senior cabinet ministers confirmed they would run against him for the Likud party leadership.

David Levy, the foreign minister and Ariel Sharon, the housing minister, will compete in the race when the party's 3,500-member central committee convenes on February 20. Speaking at a meeting of his supporters on Saturday night, Mr Levy said: "The time has come to compete for the Likud leadership. I believe I can lead the Likud to victory."

Mr Levy, who is frequently derided by Israeli commentators as a joke figure on the political scene, has recently seen his fortunes enhanced during his visit to China, when diplomatic relations were established with Peking, and later in Moscow, where he headed the Israeli delegation at the multilateral peace talks. In addition, he has maintained a loyal political faction within the Likud party drawn mainly from his fellow Moroccan Jewish supporters.

Mr Sharon, who represents the other extreme of the party, is hoping to garner support from right wingers uneasy about the course of the peace process, particularly any moves to offer Palestinians self-rule in the occupied territories.

Political pundits predicted that Mr Shamir, aged 76, would easily fend off the leadership bids. However, if the challenges succeed in damaging his support, he could find himself under growing pressure to step down. Shimon Peres, the Labour leader, goes up against his deputy and long-standing rival, Yitzhak Rabin, on February 21, in what is expected to be a close vote.

● Cairo: Mohammed Abdel-Halim Moussa, Egypt's interior minister, claimed yesterday that Fares Subhi Misrati, an Israeli Arab, arrested last week with his language-student daughter, had now confessed to working for Mossad, Israel's secret intelligence service.

Burmese troops murder refugees

Dhaka: Burmese troops fired on Muslim refugees in boats trying to cross the Naf river at the weekend, killing at least 35 and injuring 22 (Ahmed Fazl writes). About 75 people are missing after the shooting, which happened near the Bangladesh border town of Teknaf.

The *Dainik Bangla* newspaper said two boats ferrying about 160 refugees were sunk. Survivors said Burmese soldiers boarded a third boat and shot dead 20 people.

Taiwan reform

Taipei: Taiwan's National Assembly will pass wide-ranging democratic reforms, starting on March 20, to complete a process of change that began with the lifting of martial law in 1987, President Lee Teng-hui said yesterday. (Reuters)

Glass tribute

Canberra: Australia's East Timorese community erected a glass memorial outside the Indonesian embassy to victims of last November's massacre in Dili to replace 124 crosses removed by police enforcing an Australian government regulation. (AFP)

Escobar trial

Santiago de Bogota: Pablo Escobar, the jailed Colombian cocaine boss, will be tried for the killings of 42 farmworkers in three massacres. The superior court for public order overturned a judge's ruling that Escobar was not involved. (AFP)

Camp toll rises

Hong Kong: The death toll after Tuesday's arson attack at a camp here for Vietnamese boat people, allegedly by southern Vietnamese, rose to 23 when a man aged 18 died. More than 2,000 northerners have been moved to avert further conflict. (Reuters)

Prophet profits

Mexico City: Sales of the bible outstripped those of all other works at the 5th international book fair in the officially atheist Havana. The fair marks the first time in 20 years the bible has been widely available in Cuba. (AP)

NOTICE TO HALIFAX CUSTOMERS

HALIFAX BUILDING SOCIETY ANNOUNCES THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO INTEREST RATES.

INTEREST RATES from 23th February 1992	UK RATES				NON-RESIDENT RATES*			
	GROSS % p.a.	NET % p.a.	GROSS % p.a.	NET % p.a.	GROSS % p.a.	NET % p.a.	GROSS % p.a.	NET % p.a.
HALIFAX TESSA	11.15	—	—	—	11.15	—	—	—
90 DAY XTRA								
£50,000+	10.35	10.62	7.76	7.91	9.45	9.67		
£25,000+	9.75	9.99	7.31	7.44	9.25	9.46		
£10,000+	9.30	9.52	6.96	7.10	8.80	8.99		
£500+	8.50	8.68	6.38	6.48	8.40	8.58		
Monthly Income Option								
£50,000+	10.00	10.47	7.50	7.76	9.10	9.49		
£25,000+	9.40	9.82	7.05	7.28	8.95	9.33		
£10,000+	9.00	9.38	6.75	6.96	8.50	8.84		
£500+	8.25	8.57	6.19	6.37	8.15	8.46		
INSTANT XTRA PLUS								
£50,000+	9.65	—	7.24	—	9.35	—		
£25,000+	9.40	—	7.05	—	9.05	—		
£10,000+	9.00	—	6.75	—	8.65	—		
£5,000+	8.40	—	6.20	—	8.10	—		
£500+	8.15	—	6.11	—	7.90	—		
	8.00	—	6.00	—	7.75	—		
MAXIM								
£25,000+	9.10	9.49	6.83	7.05	—	—		
£10,000+	8.10	8.41	6.08	6.25	—	—		
£5,000+	7.10	7.34	5.33	5.46	—	—		
£2,000+	5.10	5.22	3.83	3.90	—	—		
£500+	4.10	4.18	3.08	3.12	—	—		
£50+	3.10	3.14	2.33	2.36	—	—		
CARD CASH								
£2,000+	5.00	5.06	3.75	3.79	5.00	5.06		
£500+	4.00	4.04	3.00	3.02	4.00	4.04		
£50+	3.00	3.02	2.25	2.26	3.00	3.02		
PAID-UP SHARE								
£50+	3.00	3.02	2.25	2.26	3.00	3.02		
£50+	2.50	2.52	1.88	1.89	2.50	2.52		
DEPOSIT								
£250+	2.75	2.77	2.04	2.07	2.75	2.77		
£50+	2.25	2.26	1.69	1.70	2.25	2.26		
CLOSED ISSUES								
Instant Xtra	8.15	—	6.11	—	7.75	—		
£10,000+	7.45	—	5.74	—	7.45	—		
£5,000+	7.40	—	5.55	—	7.25	—		
£500+	6.90	—	5.18	—	6.75	—		
Monthly Savings (£50+)								
7 Day Xtra	4.60	4.65	3.45	3.48	4.60	4.65		
28 Day Xtra	5.60	5.68	4.20	4.24	5.60	5.68		
Special Investment Account 1	6.00	5.99	4.43	4.48	5.90	5.99		
Special Investment Account 2	5.30	5.37	3.90	4.02	5.30	5.37		
5 Year Term Share	6.00	6.09	4.50	4.55	6.00	6.09		
Subscription Share (£50+)	4.00	4.04	3.00	3.02	4.00	4.04		
Matured Subscription Share (£50+)	4.00	4.04	3.00	3.02	4.00	4.04		

Trinity Road, Halifax



10th February 1992

Tyson case girl sought ideal man

DESIREE Washington, the beauty queen who accuses Mike Tyson of rape, talked on television of her yearning for romance with an "ideal man" soon after the boxer had pleaded through the ranks of beauty contestants in search for a mate for the night, the jury heard yesterday.

Miss Washington's yearnings were aired in a prosecution attempt to show that sex was far from her mind when she met Tyson at a rehearsal for the Miss Black America contest in Indianapolis and accepted an invitation which she insists was a tour of the city and he maintains was a straight request for sex.

"My ideal man is athletic and he likes debating," she had said. "His love for me will be great." The tape was played after Tyson's lawyers wrapped up their case, leaving the jury with the image of the boxer as a lecherous boor whose methods of courtship were so crude that no woman could have misunderstood

As the prosecution rested its case, legal experts remained divided on the likely outcome of the Tyson case, writes Charles Bremner from Indianapolis

the meaning of an invitation to his bedroom.

After 23 defence witnesses and an inconclusive cross-examination of Tyson on Saturday, opinion among legal experts was split over the likely fate of the former world heavyweight champion when the jury considers its verdict.

John Tranberg, a retired judge, said that Greg Garrison, the prosecutor, "did real well" in adopting a kid-gloves approach to coax the boxer into a damning account of his attitude to women. However, Mark Shaw, another legal commentator said the usually fiery prosecutor had failed to provoke Tyson into lowering his guard. "What the jury got was the fun, polite side of Tyson, not the dark side," said Mr Shaw.

Tyson seemed to be struggling to contain his temper as Mr Garrison tried to liken the physical deceptions he employed in the ring to the verbal ones he allegedly used to lure Miss Washington. He sheepishly confirmed that on the day he met her at a rehearsal for the beauty contest, his sole intention had been to have sex with her as fast as possible. "I had the intention of doing it in the limousine but the partition [behind the driver] was not dark enough," he said.

Earlier that day last July, Tyson said, he had made love to his steady girlfriend, but he could not confirm her statement that he had done so twice. Though tripped up on some details, Tyson stuck calmly to his

story that Miss Washington, a student and church usher as well as a beauty queen, had thrown herself at him and willingly engaged in sex. In his final flourish, Mr Garrison asked the boxer whether he really expected the jury to believe that he had walked up to the teenager, "one month out of high school and said to her 'I want to f--- you', and she replied 'Sure'...?" "Yeah," said Tyson.

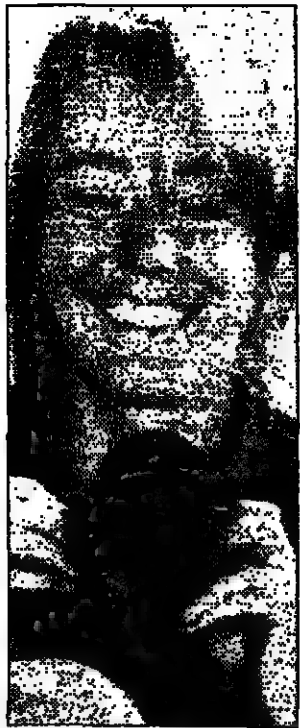
Americans have begun to draw some conclusions about the moral health of a country which reveres stars in spite of behaviour which would have appalled earlier generations. Anna Quindlen said yesterday in *The New York Times* that Tyson had clearly "disrespected black women from one end of the country to the other as though they were hamburgers and he were hungry". Yet, she noted, he is widely still regarded as a superhero and role model who is the frequent victim of female machinations.

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Julie Ward murder trial puts Kenya government in the dock



Julie Ward: father discovered remains

TWO game wardens are to appear in a Nairobi court today charged with the murder of Julie Ward, a British tourist, more than two years ago. But the proceedings promise to be not just a trial for murder but of the Kenyan system of government.

The defendants, Peter Kipeen, aged 26, and Jonah Magiroi, aged 28, have chosen one of Kenya's leading opposition figures, James Otingo, to defend them. He is certain to focus as much on the government's attempts to cover up the killing of the 28-year-old from Bury St Edmunds as he is on proving the innocence of his clients.

Julie Ward was last seen alive by anyone other than her murderers on September 6, 1988, as she packed up two tents at the Sand River camping site near the Tanzanian border and headed back to Nairobi after a few troubled days in Kenya's famous national park, the Masai Mara. A week later her father,

Sam Kiley reports from Nairobi on the long trail of investigation by a British father that led to the trial of two game wardens from the Masai Mara reserve

John Ward, found one of her severed legs, her jaw (left in two), a strand of hair and a fire where much of the rest of her remains had been burnt with petrol six miles from her abandoned Suzuki Jeep. It had been bogged down in a muddy gully. Her remains had been inefficiently cremated in a secluded grove of trees which had been singed by the flames.

Julie had spent several months crossing the continent before setting in the Nairobi suburb of Langata—where she swiftly adopted an easy life among Nairobi's whites living in colonial bungalows at the foot of the Ngong hills. She planned a last trip to the Mara before a short visit to Britain, after

which she hoped to return to Langata.

But her visit to the Mara had been beset with difficulties from the start. Her car had broken down the day after arriving in the park and had to be towed to a nearby lodge, her companion had left her to return to a meeting in Nairobi and she spent two days waiting for spare parts to arrive before setting off home on her own.

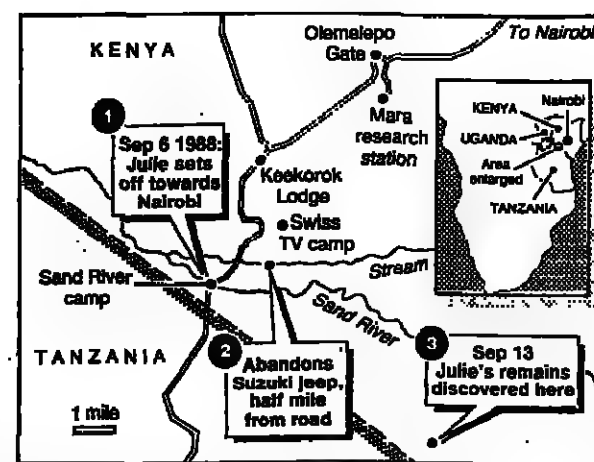
She left the main road out of the Mara from the Sand River camp and took a short cut, where she got stuck in the gully. She wrote "SOS" in mud on the roof, battered the Suzuki's battery, possibly to frighten off lions and other predators with her headlights, and then left the car.

The Kenyan authorities, including Jason Kaviti, the government's chief pathologist, said that she had either committed suicide or been eaten by wild animals while looking for help.

Mr Ward, a hotelier, flew to Kenya as soon as the alarm was raised by Julie's friends and since then has spent thousands of hours and more than £300,000 proving that Julie did not take her own life.

As his lawyer at Julie's inquest said, Mr Ward was asked to believe that Julie left her car wearing flip-flops, carrying pots and pans and a jerrycan full of petrol and wandered off into the bush "dunking like a Christmas tree". She then, according to the official story, hacked off her leg, cut off her head, then doused herself in petrol and set it alight, "thereby committing suicide" after committing suicide.

Mr Kaviti gave testimony to last year's enquiry into the murder of Kenya's former



foreign minister, Dr Robert Ouko, that the minister had run 2 kilometers from his home carrying a can of diesel, broken his leg en route, then hopped the rest of the way to the spot where he was found dead. There he shot himself at an awkward angle in the head, then also poured fuel over himself before igniting it. As in the murder of Dr

Ouko (which came five months after Julie's disappearance) the Kenyan authorities called in Scotland Yard detectives to investigate the crime after being accused of trying to cover up the murders.

But Philip Kilongo, the Kenyan chief of police, and others refused to treat the Ward case as murder — even after

evidence from Professor Austin Gresham of Cambridge University's department of morbid anatomy that Julie's skull had been cut off with a "single swipe".

The inquest into her death concluded that there had been "foul play" in her death, but the magistrate stopped short of instructing the police to launch a murder investigation. Mr Kipeen and Mr Magiroi were arrested a year ago on the advice of the Scotland Yard team as the most likely suspects in the alleged killing.

Although Mr Ward originally suspected that Julie's murder must have been committed by someone with high-level connections because of the efforts the authorities went to obscure the crime he now believes the motive for the obfuscation was to protect the tourist industry. "They just seem to have been afraid of what a murder in the Mara would have done to tourism," he said.

Algeria police clash with Islamic radicals

FROM ALFRED HERMIDA IN TUNIS

ALGERIA'S military-backed authorities seem poised to declare a state of emergency after a weekend of violent clashes across the country between Islamic fundamentalists and the security forces. The violence began after Friday prayers, and since then more than 40 people have been killed and several hundred injured.

Tension was high yesterday as leaders of the main political parties were summoned to the presidency. They were told that the ruling council, which is led by Abdelmalek Benhabyles, would soon announce measures to confront the deteriorating situation.

Throughout Friday and Saturday, groups of young people in fundamentalist strongholds in Algiers taunted

ed police with shouts of "Allahu Akbar" (God is great). In one district, Belcourt, demonstrators attacked police with stones and petrol bombs. Riot police, backed up by army units, fired warning shots and used tear gas to disperse the crowds. There was also violence in cities in the north of Algeria. Bama, in the east of the country, has been the scene of some of the worst violence. The fighting, which began on Tuesday, has claimed at least 13 lives. Demonstrators have erected barricades and set fire to car tyres.

Hundreds of fundamentalists were arrested over the weekend, including Abdelkader Moghni, a prominent figure in the Islamic Salva-

tion Front. Mr Moghni, who was elected with a large majority in the first round of the elections in December, was arrested at his home on Saturday by plainclothes officers. The campaign against the Islamic Salvation Front was stepped up yesterday when police raided and closed down the party's national headquarters in the centre of Algiers. Two party leaders and several activists were arrested.

There is growing speculation that the Islamic Salvation Front is to be banned. However, the front remained defiant. A statement said: "The nationwide demonstrations on Friday showed the people's refusal to accept the policies of tutelage and the big stick." The front repeated its demand that the electoral process be continued. The party had appeared about to win the elections before they were cancelled by the military-backed authorities. "The crisis will continue as long as the junta to power continues to scorn the people and repress political opponents," said the statement.

In a further sign of defiance, the front has called for a peaceful march through Algiers next Friday in protest at "the political piracy" of the authorities. But permission for the march is unlikely to be granted. A decision to go ahead with the protest in those circumstances could set the scene for a violent confrontation with the security forces.

A state of emergency appears to be imminent. The country's High Security Council met on Saturday night to assess the position. The council, which includes three senior army officers, the defence minister, the interior minister and the head of the armed forces, is only convened in exceptional circumstances when the head of state believes national security to be at risk.



Benhabyles: expected to ban Islamic front

Pakistan vows to halt march to border

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN ISLAMABAD

PAKISTAN, responding to international pressure, took steps yesterday to stop a mass march tomorrow to the Kashmir border. India made it clear that anybody entering its territory would be shot and announced that it had mined possible infiltration routes.

Security forces used batons and tear gas to prevent militants massing for the march into the Indian part of Kashmir. Caravans of buses were stopped by police at several points on the way to Muzaffargarh, capital of Pakistani-ruled Azad Kashmir.

Tension between the two countries is exceptionally high, particularly after an unprecedented admission by Pakistan that it has the components and know-how to assemble at least one nuclear bomb. The admission has virtually ensured that India will continue to reject United States proposals for a South Asian nuclear restraint agreement. Delhi hinted at the weekend that its nuclear programme might now be advanced.

Islamabad's pledge to try to prevent a border crossing still leaves the march fraught with danger, even though there is a shared determination to avoid anything that might lead to another war. The Pakistani army will be reluctant to use excessive force to stop the procession, aware that to do so could destabilise the fragile government of Nawaz Sharif, the prime minister. The organisers, the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, are expected to try to find a way round the troops and attempt to cross into In-

dia. Orders are understood to have gone out for the arrest of Amanullah Khan, the front leader, who went underground after declaring in Islamabad that he intended to die on the border. The Pakistani government is embarrassed by the threatened border assault at a time when it is trying to convince international investors that the country is stable.

The threatened border crossing is an attempt by Mr Khan, who is banned from Britain and America, to revive both his personal fortunes and those of the front. The organisation, which launched the uprising in the Kashmir valley nearly three years ago, has been weakened as a fighting force after the capture of many of its top fighters.

Mr Khan works from a grubby office above a car workshop in the Pakistani city of Rawalpindi. His job is propaganda, fundraising and administration. He looks more like a diminutive country schoolteacher than a guerrilla leader. He says he earns his living from a school he owns. He lived for many years in Britain, and was jailed before being ordered out. He is not regarded by Kashmiri Muslims in India as a significant political figure despite his organisation's popularity in the valley. Madhavsinh Solanki, India's external affairs minister, said that any attempt to cross the line of control dividing Kashmir would "invite decisive retaliation". He added that he believed the situation was under control.



Fast footwork: Su Tzu Ning, aged 13, of Taiwan, crossing into Shenzhen from Hong Kong, the youngest participant in the first Hong Kong China marathon yesterday. She came sixth

Poll deals blow to Miyazawa

FROM REUTER IN TOKYO

LEFT-WING opposition parties joined forces to beat Kijichi Miyazawa's ruling Liberal Democratic party in an upper house by-election at Nara, west Japan, yesterday. The defeat dealt a heavy blow to the prime minister's scandal-hit government.

"The Kyowa scandal showed the level of corruption in the ruling party," said the winner, Yoshihisa Yoshida, who was supported by the Socialists and three other parties. "My victory is a clear sign of the people's anger against this."

The Kyowa scandal focused on Rinnio Abe, former treasurer of Mr Miyazawa's LDP faction, who was charged last week with taking 80 million yen (£355,000) in bribes from Kyowa, a now-bankrupt property developer. The by-election was seen as a test of public confidence ahead of upper house elections in July. Yesterday's defeat came after almost daily disclosures of scandals concerning close aides of Mr Miyazawa.

To back demands that Mr Miyazawa's aides testify in parliament, opposition parties have been boycotting hearings since Wednesday.

World writers rally in support of Rushdie

Friends and supporters of Salman Rushdie, aged 44, mark his third anniversary this week of living under a death sentence with speeches, rallies and read-ins worldwide. His supporters say pressure is "gathering momentum" on Iran to lift the fatwa issued by Ayatollah Khomeini on February 14 1989 against Rushdie for his book *The Satanic Verses*.

Rushdie has been in hiding ever since, living at secret addresses protected by armed police.

The biggest meeting will be a gathering of international writers and artists on Friday, to debate freedom of speech. Tom Stoppard, Günter Grass

and Martin Amis will be among the speakers in the debate at London's Stationers' Hall.

President Carlos Salinas de Gortari of Mexico has apologized to *Newsweek* magazine for questioning the truth of a statement attributed to him revealing Mexico's doubts about Cuba's economic policies.

Señor Salinas, replying to a question about the political survival of President Fidel Castro, responded: "The last time I spoke to Castro was last fall on the island of Cozumel. He explained his internal economic situation and how they are trying to reverse

it. He was confident he could overcome it, but we were not."

While millions enjoyed last week's television programme, *Elizabeth R*, the Queen did not like watching herself, she admitted. A crowd of 200 applauded her when she left Sandringham church after morning service. Mary Reith, a Shortham villager, asked if she enjoyed the film. The Queen replied: "It's not much fun watching oneself."

A controversial production of *Swan Lake* received the royal seal of approval from Princess Margaret at the weekend. The princess, patron of

the Northern Ballet, told stars of the company's production they had been brave to go for a modern version of the Tchaikovsky classic, which included a mock striptease and a roller-skating fool.

She was clearly supported by the sell-out audience at the Leeds Grand Theatre who gave a five-minute standing ovation at the end of the two-hour performance.

Maureen Reagan, aged 51, daughter of the former President Reagan, says she will seek the Republican nomination for a newly created congressional seat representing coastal Los Angeles county.

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Maastricht on their minds

Unfinished European business is an election factor, writes Peter Riddell

Europe should again become an election issue. The Maastricht summit two months ago resolved little, indeed, a lack of finality was the price of John Major's largely successful efforts to preserve party unity ahead of the election. His tactical victory may have taken the subject out of the headlines, but it did not settle Britain's place in Europe.

Not only are there many loose ends from Maastricht, but the supporters and opponents of greater centralism/federalism are already manoeuvring over the terms of the later debate. Douglas Hurd last week launched a pre-emptive strike while unveiling the ambiguous logo for the British presidency in the second half of this year, a lion striding across the EC's flag, "a lion at the heart of Europe". John Smith and his party's economics team last week visited EC capitals to explain Labour's support for monetary union (and its desire to counter-balance the independent central bank with a greater role for finance ministers). Whoever wins

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

union had lagged behind progress on the monetary front.

The British tactic has been to try to accelerate the pace of enlargement, not only for its own sake but also to ensure that this makes a centralist solution unworkable. Eager not to lose time, even five months before the start of the British presidency, Mr Hurd last week said the government's priorities were the completion of the single market and enlargement. He wanted to ensure an early start to negotiations with the Efta countries now putting in their applications, beginning with Austria, Sweden and Finland, so that they could join in 1995. Britain will also seek to ensure that the association agreements with Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia are treated as a preparation for full membership by 2000 at the latest, not as a means of postponement.

'Whoever wins the election, far-reaching decisions will have to be taken about relations with the EC'

There could be up to 20 EC members by the end of the century. This would apparently produce 156 cross-translation permutations, let alone all the other strains this might mean for institutions originally designed for six members. While the alleged choice between deepening and widening is a false dichotomy, Mr Hurd rightly argues that enlargement on the scale envisaged is bound to change the structure. A larger, and more diverse, Community would make unanimity hard to achieve, while greater use of qualified majority voting, as favoured by the commission, could leave several aggrieved countries. The Maastricht treaty further increases the methods of decision-making.

Arctic though these questions appear, they are fundamental both to the shape of the EC and to Britain's place in it. To paraphrase Mr Major, can Britain at last be at peace with the rest of Europe? Last week, in evidence to the Commons foreign affairs committee, Mr Hurd sought to offer the reassurance that it would be "all right on the night" in face of the fears of sceptics such as Peter Shore and Ivan Lawrence about subordination to "alien institutions".

Both the main parties are reluctant to discuss the European question too loudly lest it reopen internal party divisions. It is all very well talking about the uncontroversial goal of helping the new democracies of central and Eastern Europe via enlargement. But other questions are more awkward. The Tories are keen to bury the issue of monetary union for as long as possible and Labour will find it hard to excite voters with its case that Britain could not in practice afford to opt out from the single currency if it meets the conditions of convergence. Maastricht is a "victory" celebrated mainly by silence.

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The dating of a mummified body in Tyrol offers a door to prehistory, says Matthew d'Ancona

The iceman speaks

Early one morning, five millennia ago, a young man of high rank began an ill-fated mountain journey across a path that now joins North and South Tyrol. Caught in a blizzard at 10,000ft, he scurried across the glacier to the relative shelter of a mountain ledge, clutching his axe, bow and rucksack, depending on the straw stuffing in his coat and shoes to keep the cold at bay. But the elements in their fury overcame him. The traveller died a lonely and anonymous death.

Last September, the iceman of Hauslabjoch tumbled back into history, discovered by German rangers exploring the Similaun glacier in the Val Senales. Academics, tourists and journalists swarmed to the scene to stake their claim to the find and to speculate about its provenance. For a while, the frozen body, which ended up at Innsbruck University, was thought to be the 500-year-old corpse of a soldier serving under Duke Ferdinand of Austria and the Tyrol; later, a Swiss woman identified the iceman as her father, who disappeared on the glacier in the 1970s.

But Oxford scientists have now

carbon-dated samples of bone and skin, using the techniques that showed the Turin shroud to be a late medieval forgery. Their findings, based on the quantities of carbon-14 present in tissue, confirm tests carried out on the man's belongings at Paris and Uppsala, which suggested he was between 5,000 and 5,500 years old. The margin for error in this case is less than 1 per cent: so the iceman has at last been given a secure berth in history and the sceptics have been denied a second Pittdown.

This miracle of technology is also a priceless gift to the imagination, adding the flesh of time to the skeletal portrait that has already formed of the unlucky traveller. He may well have been a shaman, bearing a copper axe as a mark of status in an age when stone tools were the norm. He had certainly hunted on the day he died and caught a small animal, perhaps to eat with the slices he had collected in a beechwood beaker. From the



A time-traveller from 3000BC

70 artefacts discovered round the body, which include a marble disc, 14 arrows and a patchwork gown, will slowly emerge a picture of an individual, his way of life, and his peculiarities.

But it is the simple humanity of this find that makes it so rich and strange. We have here the tattooed

body of a finely featured, 20-year-old man who lived and breathed before the Bronze Age had swept central Europe, 3,000 years before the birth of Christ and 1,800 before Paris's love for Helen sparked the Trojan war.

On the day the iceman began his final journey, the wheel was only a few centuries old. Stonehenge was still a millennium away, and the first pyramid had yet to rise from the sands. Egyptian scribes were perfecting their hieroglyphs on paper made from reeds. Mesopotamian farmers were tilling the first plough, and Europeans were beginning to rear horses. Through the dark glass of the iceman's face this mysterious age becomes a little more visible.

Digging up corpses forces us to confront equally ancient taboos and serious questions of taste and ethics. But our fascination is much more than morbid curiosity: it reflects an elemental desire to

reach out and touch an otherwise irretrievable past.

One of the most haunting books I have read is P.V. Glob's *The Bog People*, which describes Iron Age bodies preserved by peat in Denmark for 2,000 years. Glob's book, which inspired Seamus Heaney's masterly collection of poems, *North*, captures perfectly the resonance of such discoveries, and why they entrance us. We want to defeat the decay of the past; to humanise it. More than written records and artefacts, accidentally preserved bodies remind us that each of us stands on the shoulders of a thousand forgotten ancestors.

The magic of the Turin shroud was destroyed when the dons of Oxford dated it. But the iceman's grip on our imagination has been fortified by scientific confirmation of his antiquity, by the knowledge that he walked across the snow so long ago and now is with us again. "Who will say 'corpse' to his vivid cast?" wrote Heaney of a body dug from its long sleep in a Danish peat bog. The same question might be asked of the strange man resting in a vault in Innsbruck and restored to the flow of time by the counting of carbon ions.

'Twas love on our first date

Bernard Levin celebrates a magical relationship with his pocket diary

A ge signals itself in a thousand ways, almost all of them accompanied by a sneer. On the other hand, wise men learn to dispense with the impossible. I, for instance, have long ago faced the fact that I cannot run a mile in under four minutes, or for that matter in an hour and a half, and the knowledge does not dismay me.

Death, of course, is less trifling. Two of my dearest and oldest friends have been among those who have tipped away in the year gone by, and the toll inevitably grows longer all the time, and the years steadily shorter.

Then many a lad I liked is dead, And many a lass grown old; And as the lesson strikes my head My weary heart grows old.

Happily, the years also bring in their merry recollections as well as their gloomy ones, and the further away is the past they emerge from, the merrier they are, however startling the realisation of their antiquity.

Will a quarter of a century do? I think it will.

In 1967, I was seeking the ideal pocket diary, and I was falling to find it. They were all either too thick and heavy to be easily accommodated in a breast pocket (I had long been a snappy dresser, the glass of fashion and the mould of form, for whom an unsightly bulge was tantamount to unpollished shoes), or, if sufficiently slim, they provided too little space for appointments, notes and other entries. There was no problem with my desk diary, but I could hardly lug around something getting on for the size of a telephone directory. Let's be useless in the search, and the Filofax had not yet been born (though I would not have sported the horrible thing if it had - I chortled long and loud when it fell out of favour as rapidly as it had fell into it).

I can no longer remember what or who guided my steps to a firm called Day-Timers. I don't think they advertised at all, let alone widely; their telephone number, as

I recall, was not even in the phone book then, though I am glad to say it is now. (I might as well give it to you, all they are in course of moving, because their present premises are once again too small, but only up the street - Kenilworth Road, Try 071-485 5252).

Anyway, I wandered into a neat office-cum-shop, and ten seconds later let out a scream; actually it was two screams - the first because I had found exactly what I was looking for, and the second because I hadn't invented it.

The place was run (at least I could not see or hear anyone else on the premises) by a couple, whom I subsequently discovered were husband and wife, a Mr and Mrs Elliot, Americans. Friendship soon exchanged for formality for first names: the Elliots are Mervyn and Edna. But the friendship has lasted for 25 years almost exactly to the day on which I write here.

Before I continue with the friendship, let me explain the trick that solved my problem. The Day-Timer has expanded over the years you can get desk diaries and all sorts of office helpfulness. But what I was looking for took the form of a beautifully neat, spiral-bound pocket diary which gave (and gives) two full pages a day, 6 1/2 in by 3 1/2. But how then is the glass of fashion and the mould of form solved? Simple: the thing comes in a box, wherein are found not one pocket diary but 12; there is a separate one for every month of the year. (Yes, yes, they have solved the subsequent problem of diary-entries for more than a month ahead: at the back of each book there are pages of summarised space for forward planning, months ahead.) Moreover, the whole caboodle comes with an exceptionally handsome leather holder, into which the current month's diary fits; but that's only the beginning - the holder is not just a holder, but a wallet and notepad as well: everything a breast pocket will ever need (and there are even smaller, shirt-pocket size ones) comes to the



modern man's or woman's hand.

I can still recall in the greatest detail my first time on the Elliots' premises, because their American helpfulness was so much greater than the surly and ignorant salespeople offered, and still do. Every question I asked was at once answered; every explanation was clear; the array of items I might be interested in was spread out before

me, whereupon the Elliots moved to the back of the store to leave me alone with the choices.

I made my choices and bought the Day-Timer style C21; I paid by credit card. Shortly after I got home, I discovered that I had carelessly left the credit card on their premises; the place was by then shut. The phone rang; it was Mervyn, telling me that the card was safe and sound; he had traced

my address and had already sent on the card by registered post. The following morning he rang to make sure that it had arrived.

I was then writing a column for the *Daily Mail*; I told the story and its background to my readers; what I didn't know was that the Elliots had only just set up in business in Britain (they were acting as subsidiaries for the company that had produced the Day-Timer), and my encomium gave them a hearty push.

Twenty-five years have passed since that day; their business flourishes still - they have separated from their parent company to go it alone - and their son now largely runs the business. I send them, each year, my new book, and they send me my annual Day-Timer; this time, when I dropped in, I apologised for the fact that for the first time in 11 consecutive years there wasn't going to be a book in 1991. "OK," said Mervyn instantly, "you'll have to write one twice as long in 1992."

"We brought nothing into this world," wrote St Paul to Timothy, "and it is certain we can carry nothing out." I agree, not least because in the very same letter Paul urges his correspondent to abandon his habit of drinking water and try wine instead. But although of course the saint is right as to material things, surely his stern admonition was not intended to stretch as far as the words of friendship?

I hope not. It would be horrid to think that some kind of celestial customs officer, after clearing out the pockets of the prospective candidate for Heaven, and confiscating the money and the earthly treasures, went on to demand also my shakehand with Mervyn, and the kiss bestowed on me by Edna. And if he can unbend that far, would it be too presumptuous for me to bring my Day-Timer, too?

...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS



They say a drowning man sees a lifetime flash before him in a moment. Who knows? But economy and strange dreams in which little things, symbols that have branded themselves into the memory, tumble together in surreal confusion.

They do, I try to make sense of experience to file *Heseltine with Henley, hairstyle, and House of Commons* (my membership of 1979-86). *Peru with poncho plain journey and paperback* (my first, 1991). And then I catch my unconscious mind, like a thief in the night, emptying files on the floor, stitching together dreams that have no bearing, inserting memories that don't belong. How subversive is the memory!

On Thursday last the president of Peru visited Kew, and I wasn't dreaming. I was there, 100 others will bear me out. Yet it became a dream.

The occasion started quietly, though unusually. The president had been invited to give the third Kew environmental lecture. Prince Charles gave the first in 1990, and Señor Fujimori told us in the lecture theatre where he spoke, that it was an honour to come. The honour was also ours, for he had made a private journey - he has yet to make a state visit to Britain - to speak at Kew.

The president had, however, called on John Major and on Douglas Hurd. Mr Major will have liked him. Fujimori, too, comes from nowhere: a quiet,

unpolitical agronomist from a humble background to whom the Peruvians turned in desperation their economy wrecked by party power-seekers. Nobody really knew him then, but Fujimori has emerged as a gentle but steely advocate of market economics. He is the first person of Japanese origin to lead a country outside Japan. Peru smiled when, on a state visit to the land of his ancestors, Fujimori alone, among Japanese courtiers of infinite social superiority, was not required to bow to the emperor.

The president amused and relaxed his Kew audience by reminding us that Peru's most famous export to Britain was Puddington Bear, "known for his charm and goodwill". Fujimori expressed the hope that he might follow the example. This is no place to summarise a speech. It included the interesting point that destroying coca plantations to satisfy world opinion has accelerated the loss of rainforests: "For each coca hectare that this programme eradicated, eight new hectares appeared." The president also proposed that an area disputed between Peru and Ecuador be designated a bi-national park. It was a serious speech.

The vote of thanks, from Robin Herbert, president of the Royal Horticultural Society, was lighthearted. Formally, and on behalf of his countrymen, he thanked Peru for the potato. This marked the beginning of a conservatory.

As we crossed silent lawns to the crystal palace holding Kew's private jungle, the dream took hold. Beyond the gardens' perimeter wall was life: hum of traffic, aircraft lumbering above. But the gardens were a still, quiet pool of night. Daimlers and policemen stood motionless among huge, black trees. Surrounded by dark, the glass palace alone was floodlit in green and blue. We entered.

It was raining - or, rather, a fine spray was hissing from a machine. The air was warm. Fronds hung down from tropical trees and vines. Michael Heseltine was standing on a bridge talking to MORI's Bob Worcester. Beneath him swam a huge white fish, with whiskers. The president of Peru, a small, oriental figure in dark suit, was flanked by a man of European features in gold braid: his aide-de-camp from the Peruvian navy. Waitresses passed among the trees and bushes with drinks and sandwiches, and a South American Indian group in ethnic dress, Inti Nan, played piped music so vivid it hurt. I said hello to Mr Heseltine, and, after a while, departed to the adjoining conservatory: a silent desert, cold, dark and dry.

It transported me to a boyish expedition in the Sahara. I stood quite still, wine glass in hand, staring through the cacti to the floodlit jungle and Mr Heseltine. An underground train rattled in the distance. Sounds of Andean music drifted through my small desert, and tears, unaccountably, filled my eyes.

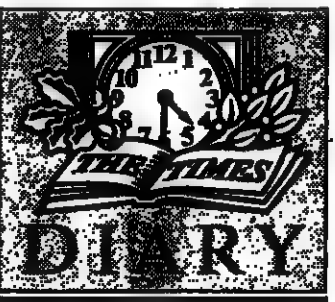
The Maggie and Bernard show?

WHEN John Major met Mrs Thatcher last week to talk over her role in the general election did the name Sir Bernard Ingham figure in their discussions? With Mrs Thatcher already receiving 150 invitations to speak during the campaign the idea has been mooted in Tory circles that Ingham might join his former boss on the stump.

The prime minister is keen to have Mrs Thatcher on his side but some of his advisers fear she could be a loose cannon unless her campaign is properly orchestrated. Mrs Thatcher is expected to go to constituencies being defended by some of her closest political friends, such as Michael Forsyth, the former Scottish Tory party chairman, who has a majority of 948 in Striding, and Gerald Howarth, her PPS, who is defending the marginal seat of Cannock and Burntwood.

Wherever Mrs Thatcher goes a press army will be close behind, which is why support is growing for a revival of her famous double act. Ingham, who now has a busy career as a newspaper columnist and broadcaster, is intrigued by the idea. "Obviously I would want to do anything I can to help Mrs Thatcher. But I have not been approached, and my participation would depend on my work commitments. I am very busy."

Ingham, who was Mrs Thatcher's press secretary for the full length of her premiership, agrees there would be enormous interest in the former prime minister on the campaign trail. "They will want to see whether she puts her foot in it." It is to safeguard against that that many Tories hope Ingham and Mrs Thatcher will be reunited.



MPs were the first to complain last week about the Princess of Wales buying a Mercedes, so it is interesting to note the venue for the Commons Motor Club's outing this week: Mercedes-Benz UK at Park Lane. The MPs will test-drive the company's cars in Hyde Park. A rejoinder from the princess is awaited.

Maughams pardon

SOME three months after it emerged that the diaries of the late Robin Maugham had gone missing an amnesty from prosecution has been promised if they are returned by the end of the week. The diaries, lost from the London home of Maugham's sister, Diana Marr-Johnson, contain 30 years of secret material about the life of Somerset Maugham.

An advertisement has been placed in *Stage and Television Today* stating: "The copyright holder of the Robin Maugham diaries solemnly declares not to prosecute if the diaries turn up before Friday, February 14."

That is the 11th anniversary of the death of Robin Maugham, the author's nephew. The advertisement was placed by William Lawrence, a friend of Robin, who was to receive half the proceeds from any publication. Lawrence says: "The diaries were the definitive ac-

count of the Maugham dynasty. They are a great loss to literature." In a magazine article in March, 1980, Robin wrote of his diaries: "Much of the material is of exactly the nature my uncle would have wished concealed." That may have something to do with their mysterious disappearance.

Big head

"I AM going home," says Ged, the diary's regular cartoonist, explaining his temporary absence this week. In fact, he is passing his week's holiday at Whipsnade Zoo. Spurred on by the example of Congo, the chimp whose paintings were exhibited at the ICA, Ged has

Full colour I hope



found a larger canvas for his cartoon animals: a 50ft by 30ft mural. It will depict an animal picnic.

Asked how long the work will take, Ged says: "The usual. In at 3 o'clock and out by ten past." He will be released from his cage - or suite as he calls it - on Friday, and normal service will be resumed next week.

Fame at last

ROSALIND FRANKLIN has been honoured at last. In 1958 the 38-year-old DNA scientist died in obscurity in a block of flats off the

Fulham Road. While she lived there Franklin worked at Birkbeck College on the x-ray crystallography images that played a crucial part in unravelling the DNA molecule. She was never allowed in the senior common room at Kings College, London, and in 1962 the Nobel prize went to James Watson, Francis Crick, and Franklin's colleague Maurice Wilkins.

Now English Heritage has put up a commemorative blue plaque on her flat at 22 Donovan Court, Drayton Gardens. Victor Belcher, head of the plaque scheme, says: "Franklin never received adequate recognition. We are particularly anxious to commemorate important women as 90 per cent of the 600 plaques put up in the last 125 years are to men."

All in the mind

IT IS fairly easy to see what links Terry Anderson and Gerry Waite. But what links Mikhail Gorbachev to Magic Johnson, the Prince of Wales to Grandpa Schwartzkopf, or the grand champion of Sumo to the astronomer royal? All are finalists for the 1992 Brain of the Year award, organised by the Brain Club, which supports medical research on the brain. Only two nominees are women, the unlikely pairing of Madonna and Liz McColgan.

The winner is to be announced on March 30 and membership of the charitable club is open, says Suzie Churchill, the chief administrator, to "anyone willing to accept they have a brain".

Members of the Tory party have been sent a weighty questionnaire by the politics department of Sheffield University as part of a survey into what kind of people political activists are. "Are you female/male? Please tick only one box," it asks intriguingly.



STAY HERE, AMERICA

If Europe is not careful, Pax Americana and George Bush's new world order could suddenly turn into Little America. So threatened Vice-President Dan Quayle and assorted senators at a Munich conference on security at the weekend. Fears of growing American isolationism, leading to an abnegation of any responsibility for Europe's security, have been heard since long before the end of the Cold War. They must now be taken seriously, the more so with the impending breakdown, at Europe's behest, of the current round of talks to boost world trade.

Americans have long complained of being forced to shoulder too large a burden of security on behalf of the rest of the world. Influential congressmen such as Sam Nunn and Mike Mansfield have for two decades lent their names to amendments calling for American troops in Europe to come home. Ever since George Washington cautioned "beware of foreign entanglements", isolationism has been a trait of the American character. It has either dominated American foreign policy or lain not far below its surface, as Churchill found when cajoling Roosevelt into the second world war. Only politicians schooled by east coast internationalism and foreign travel have prevented it bubbling up again since the war.

Their greatest ally was the threat of communist imperialism. As long as American engagement in the world could be seen in terms of good versus evil, their countrymen's imaginations could be kindled and their support won. President Bush, old enough to have fought in the second world war, is a natural internationalist and free trader. But he has to shout hard, even in his own party's primaries, to drown the seductive tunes of isolationism and its twin brother, protectionism, sung by Patrick Buchanan on the right and by many Democrats on the left. Without an evil empire to pray in aid and with a recession hurting industry at home, Mr Bush's task has become formidable.

Yesterday, his vice-president gave a warn-

ing that failure in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) talks could imperil the future of American troops in Europe, a direct and ominous linkage. General John Galvin, Nato's supreme commander, begged Europeans to convince American voters that they need a continued military presence in Europe. Otherwise Americans will refuse to pay the bill for the defence of a continent that appears not only ungrateful but an economic rival too. Europe's bluff has been called on this matter before; this time the threat is real.

The danger is that Europeans, still elated by the downfall of communism and their progress towards union, will be deluded by their own propaganda into believing that they really can take over their defence. The truth has to be stated. Europe still needs Nato's security umbrella, albeit reduced to match the lessened threat. No other country has America's military, intelligence and logistic capability. That was necessary to deter the known threat from the Soviet Union; it is no less necessary in a world of uncertainty and nuclear proliferation.

America would be foolish to retreat into isolationism and protectionism. While nuclear weapons exist, Americans can never regain the invulnerability they once possessed. In their police actions round the globe, in their adumbration of a new world order, they need friends. And since protectionism helped to tip the country into depression in the 1930s, how much worse would be the fall now that America's economy is so much more dependent on trade and overseas investment.

But American voters do not want to be lectured. They need to see a return on their investment in Europe's security; an investment that, if repatriated, could usefully be spent at home. Europe must show, by resolving its objections to GATT, that it does not want to wage economic war on America. And for America's defence of their continent, Europeans should shout their thanks back across the Atlantic.

THE PROFESSIONS: ACCOUNTANTS

Last week, *The Times* began a series of Monday editorials on "the forgotten supply side". Britain's great professions, scarcely touched by Thatcherism, face new insecurity in the Nineties

Accountancy, long the epitome of unexciting probity, finds itself in the eye of a storm. Corporate scandal is heaped on corporate scandal. De Lorean, Polly Peck, Ferranti, British and Commonwealth, BCCI, now Maxwell: the insistent question is, where were the accountants? All the "Big Six" firms — Coopers & Lybrand, KPMG, Ernst & Young, Price Waterhouse, Touche Ross and Arthur Andersen — have been involved in one or other of the recent problems. Some, such as Arthur Andersen in the De Lorean case, are now at risk from consequential litigation. The profession is racked by a crisis of confidence, under fire from the outside world, its leaders by no means certain that they know the answers.

Accountants are the private police force of capitalism. Without accountants, neither shareholders nor bankers nor creditors can be sure of those with whom they deal. If accountancy is rotten, then that rottenness spreads through the system and confidence is shaken. High standards are the profession's justification for its high rewards. The Big Six are partnerships. They do not publish their profits but these are known to be substantial. The services of a partner cost hundreds of pounds per hour.

Partners justify these fees on the ground that they need a reward on the capital they invest in their business. They argue correctly that they are subject to unlimited liability if they fail: in theory, a mistake made by a junior practitioner in an outpost of a big firm could lead to the personal bankruptcy, jointly and severally, of the partners in that firm. But these arguments are not convincing when professional failure goes unpunished. Accountants did not spot the BCCI fraud until too late, yet they are now feasting on the corpse, depriving those whose savings they failed to police of an estimated £1.5 million a week. Unravelling the Maxwell millions is yielding similarly extravagant rewards.

Not all accountants are under hostile public scrutiny. The public sector accountants, represented by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, live blameless if sleepy lives. Thousands of accountants in private practice also devote themselves quietly to filing clients' tax returns, though they are turning to financial services to earn a living. The management accountancy profession is concerned more with company efficiency than with propriety. If the directors are satisfied with their services, there is no reason for the rest of the community to question them.

Controversy lies elsewhere, in the area of corporate governance and the accountants' role in its reform and regulation. If there is no change here, then there will be no recovery in the battered image of the profession as a whole. Accountants, like lawyers in the United States, will be the butt of every cocktail party barb, watchwords for rapacity and sharp dealing.

Reform has not been entirely neglected. The profession is not as hog-tied by artificial barriers as others. The big accountancy firms have been able to diversify into corporate finance and staff recruitment, offering the customer one-stop shopping. The government has allowed the industry to regulate itself under company legislation. Sir Gordon Borrie at the Office of Fair Trading removed some restrictive practices, such as the ban on advertising. Yet the supply-side radicalism of the Thatcher years did not go far. It is symptomatic of a residual conservatism in accountancy that there are no fewer than six professional associations for the industry, including separate ones in

Ireland and Scotland. They have failed to achieve sensible amalgamations. They still confuse their regulatory functions with their job of promoting the profession and its interests.

Now the wind of change is starting to blow. Under the aegis of the Accounting Standards Board is imposing rules to outlaw the creative accounting of the Eighties. The Auditing Practices Board is trying to improve shareholder information; while the Cadbury Committee brings accountants, the Stock Exchange and industrialists together to reform corporate governance.

What ought to be the next priorities? First, it will no longer do for company bosses to appoint their own auditors, any more than crooks should be allowed to appoint chief inspectors of police. Audit often brings with it lucrative consultancy for the firm in question. At present, the executive directors of a company can too easily threaten to remove the auditors if they pursue their enquiries too energetically. All auditors should be appointed by an audit committee of the board, comprising non-executive directors only. Auditors should play a more active role, commenting on such issues as whether company cash flow has been properly assessed, and the adequacy of internal reporting procedures.

Rules to restrict and perhaps even prevent the same accountants auditing for a firm and advising it through consultancy are essential. Present practice allows the same firm to do both. This gives a company too big a financial lever against its accountants. Secondly, more competition between accountants is needed. There are no set fees for accountancy, and a degree of price competition now exists. Fees are in practice the result of a tug-of-war between a company's finance director and its auditors. Neither can be really sure what is reasonable. Also the marketplace can decide that. But it would decide better if accountancy partnerships were forced to publish their profits. This would provide an objective guide to prices. If, as accountants claim, fees are being so far cut as to endanger the quality of audit work, then their low profits will demonstrate that fact.

Thirdly, that spreading plague of every British profession, legal liability for negligence, needs consideration. Twenty years ago, if error was made, the customer invariably paid. Transatlantic custom has since spread. Today the customer often sues. If the De Lorean case is decided against Arthur Andersen, the partnership could be liable for a crippling £1 billion in damages. The accountants can insure, but only at a cost which is high and rising. Sense is needed on all sides, but mostly from the courts. They should not punish those firms that fail to spot deeply hidden collusive fraud, but should penalise those who fail to spot what ought to have been obvious. Unless the courts show such sense, the big accountancy firms may be undermined, or at least send their charges through the roof.

Many accountants, but not all, wish they could be left quietly to get on with business in peace. Some time ago, this might have been an option. But the work of accountants is now permeated with statute law, with litigious clients and market pressures. A well-ordered profession has great opportunities in the rest of Europe. It needs to prove that the emerging structure of statute-based self-regulation will remove existing conflicts of interest and restore public confidence. A quiet life is no longer available.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Drug misusers under police custody

From Dr Neville Davis and others

Sir, Two months ago the Department of Health and its Scottish and Welsh counterparts issued a report entitled *Drug Misuse and Dependence*. Subtitled "Guidelines on clinical management", and written for doctors in general, it deals incidentally with drug misusers in police custody, notwithstanding that no member of the medical working group which produced the report is primarily occupied with the care of offenders passing through police cells.

Concerning opiates, it states that "prompt treatment to limit withdrawal symptoms will help to reduce the risk of disturbed behaviour and ensure that the patient is fit to be interviewed". Their recommended "prompt treatment" is to administer methadone, another toxic opiate. This appears to be based on what we regard as the mythology of opiate abuse, that withdrawal commonly produces horrific symptoms.

It is accepted policy in many police forces for forensic medical examiners (FMEs) that methadone should not normally be prescribed for persons in custody. The experience of police surgeons over many years has not identified serious symptoms ascribed to opiate withdrawal as a common occurrence. None of us can recall disasters due to this withdrawal, unlike that from alcohol, benzodiazepines and barbiturates.

Addicts notoriously exaggerate the amounts of opiates they misuse, and it is unsafe to base prescribing on their statements. When certifying fitness to be interviewed, police surgeons are on a hiding to nothing, since if no methadone is given, the defence will be that the offender was disabled by withdrawal; whereas, if methadone is given, the defence will be that he or she was under the

influence of this toxic opiate and therefore unfit to be interviewed.

The report is prefaced by a 1988 statement from the General Medical Council dealing with "HIV infection and Aids: the ethical considerations", asserting that: "It is... unethical for a doctor to withhold treatment from any patient on the basis of a moral judgement that the patient's activities or lifestyle might have contributed to the condition for which treatment was being sought. Unethical behaviour of this kind may raise the question of serious professional misconduct."

Representing the views of most doctors caring for addicts in police custody, we consider that routine methadone substitution in these circumstances is ill-advised and unnecessary, since safe and effective alternative medication is available to treat such symptoms as may arise. Bolstering the guidelines with an implied threat that failure to follow them might constitute "serious professional misconduct" defies understanding.

We remain, Sir, yours faithfully,
NEVILLE DAVIS
(Past President, Clinical Forensic Medicine Section, Royal Society of Medicine),
E. C. A. BOTT
(Chief Medical Officer,
Metropolitan Police),
STUART CARNE
(Senior Forensic Medical Examiner,
Group 2, Metropolitan Police),
H. de la HAY DAVIES
(Honorary Secretary, Association
of Police Surgeons),
M. A. KNIGHT
(President, Association of
Police Surgeons),
RAINE ROBERTS
(President, Clinical Forensic Medicine
Section, Royal Society of Medicine),
Redroofs, Windmill Lane,
Ardley, Hertfordshire,
February 5.

Medicine and the law

From Dr Norman F. Jones

Sir, Concern about the standards of professional expertise amongst police surgeons (report, January 27) reflects the fact that many doctors mistakenly consider that it is possible to teach clinical forensic medicine. In which police surgeons need to be proficient, to the average general practitioner in a fortnight or less.

Moreover, newly-qualified doctors are generally ill-equipped to face the many medico-legal problems which they will inevitably encounter in both hospital and general practice.

This royal college will hold its first basic course in the legal aspects of medicine in April, as part of an initiative aimed at correcting these defects. An advanced diploma in clinical legal medicine is also under consideration by the RCP committee

on the legal aspects of medicine, and an efficiency scrutiny of the forensic medical examining service of the Metropolitan Police is in progress.

Bearing in mind that medical expertise should be available to prosecution and defence alike, there is much to be said for establishing a trained and accredited panel of experts in clinical forensic medicine. It should be funded not by the police but by an independent body from which all sides in criminal matters would purchase the necessary expertise.

Yours faithfully,
NORMAN JONES
(Chairman, Committee on the Legal
Aspects of Medicine,
Royal College of Physicians,
11 St Andrews Place,
Regent's Park, NW1,
February 4.

Falklands in review

From Mr M. Barnatt

Sir, Mr Lee Grey (letter, February 5) suggests that appointment of personal blame to military commanders for errors of judgment is absurd and only adds to their anguish. Has he not considered the anguish of the families of those killed by such errors?

Tragedies such as Bluff Cove and, more recently, the American air attack on British troops during the gulf war should be investigated thoroughly and openly, in order to establish the extent of any negligence.

Whether a captain in the navy, army or of industry, those entrusted with command must accept personal

responsibility for their gross errors of judgment.

Yours faithfully,
M. BARNATT,
100 Broughton Road,
South Woodham Ferrers,
Chelmsford, Essex,
February 5.

From Mr Tom Pocock
Sir, Of course I did not blame Admiral Woodward for the British deaths in the Falklands campaign, as Mr Grey suggests. Like all commanders, however humane, he had to bear the added burden of giving orders that lead to casualties — and, in his case, victory.

Yours faithfully,
TOM POCOCK,
Garrick Club,
Garrick Street, WC2.

Verdict on Haughey

From Mr Peter MacDonagh

Sir, Your editorial on the resignation of Charles Haughey, "Late but unlamented" (January 31), fell far short of providing any reasoned comment on his 30-year career in Irish politics. From the time he became leader of his party Mr Haughey received the support of an average of 45 per cent of the Irish electorate. This support was based on significantly more than what you dismissively term Mr Haughey's "roguish appeal" and the "twinkle in his eye".

He will be remembered by many, not in the way you seem to wish, but rather for the large body of progressive and imaginative legislation which he introduced, particularly in areas such as care for the elderly and the disabled, support of the arts and the beginning of the regeneration of the centre of Dublin.

He deserves far more than the "warts only" portrait presented in your editorial.

Yours sincerely,
PETER MACDONAGH,
34 Brighton Gardens,
Rathgar, Dublin 6,
February 3.

Poll tax disparities

From Mr Rodney Thomas

Sir, There is a tendency in pay negotiations and settlements to emphasise percentages as the principal means to maintain differentials and award "fair" and "comparable" increases. Without regard for the resultant implications in terms of the real increase in purchasing power, this merely leads to a situation where "ump who who hath shall even more be given".

For example, for the same percentage increase to be awarded, say, to a nurse earning £12,000 per annum and to a dentist earning £40,000 per annum would work much to the ad-

vantage of the latter, in real cash.

An illustration of how misleading this obsession with percentages can be has been provided by the recent news that the Western Isles Council, which lost so much money as a result of the BCCI collapse, has set its poll tax for the coming year, with an increase of 469 per cent. Their new bills are to be about £122 per person.

It would have needed an increase of more than 1,000 per cent for the tax those fortunate people will be paying next year to come even close to the amount I pay in Durham.

Yours faithfully,
RODNEY THOMAS (Housemaster),
The Cuffinies,
Durham School, Durham.

A human face when faulty towers fall

From Mr Julian Lloyd Webber

Sir, Michael Heseltine's excellent decision to demolish the Department of the Environment building in Marsham Street, Westminster (report and picture, February 7), should surely be the stepping-stone for the introduction of an "Eyesore Bill". As we have listed buildings, so we should have de-listed buildings — eyesores which, by common agreement, should be knocked down at the first opportunity.

Imagine the transformation in our towns and cities as one "monstrous carbuncle" after another disappeared forever! Thanks, not least, to Prince Charles, modern architecture has begun to rediscover its human face, and Mr Heseltine's initiative at the DoE should spell the end of many a multi-storey car park and drab office block. What a victory for the citizen's charter that would be!

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN LLOYD WEBBER,
c/o Philips Classics,
1 Sussex Place,
Hammersmith, W6,
February 7.

From Mr Michael Broome

Sir, As an occupant for some 20 years of what your leader writer describes as "one of London's least loved modern buildings", may I say a word in favour of 2 Marsham Street.

The joy of moving into light, clean, human-scale surroundings in early 1971, after the baronial gloom of the 1930s fortress on Millbank, was appreciated by all my colleagues. The sense of community engendered by the visual coherence of each floor meant that people working together

in a division could feel that they were part of a small team.

My brief spell in St Christopher House, Southwark Street, SE1, once renowned as the most modern office block in London, increased my appreciation of the quiet, light, working conditions that Marsham Street provided, and the intelligent use of colour coding helped to define the home territory from the opponents (yes!) in the other towers.

Yes, the lifts sometimes stuck, as they do everywhere. Yes, the exterior was concrete as its worst. But from the inside, it was, for me, a pleasant and efficient working environment. Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BROOME,
30 Warren Road,
Woodley,
Reading, Berkshire,
February 7.

From Mr David Montagu-Smith

Sir, The DoE buildings have been falling down of their own volition for years. The job should be finished, at no further cost to the Exchequer by the barbarians who put them up in the first place.

But why do we seem never to identify the real culprit? These are the individual architects and civil servants, accountants and planners, who designed and approved these and so many other horrors on our landscapes, and many of whom now doubtless wallow under the weight of honours, titles and self-satisfaction, after vandalistic careers which have run their course.

A witch-hunt is called for. Yours faithfully,
DAVID MONTAGU-SMITH,
90 Oakfield Road, N4,
February 7.

Scientists' sense of awe

From the Astronomer Royal

Sir, In his speech on architecture (report and text, January 31) Prince Charles made a moving plea to humanise our towns and cities. His remarks were marred, however, by his criticism of scientists — not least of their "mechanistic view of the universe and of man's place in it" and of their desire to "see the cosmos as a gigantic machine which could be examined, experimented with and manipulated by man for his exclusive use".

I would put it to the Prince that many of us are not like that at all. Our view of the cosmos yields an awe of the heavens and an awareness of another dimension beyond that of the material world. Furthermore,

like him we value tradition and we appreciate form and beauty — whether it be in the shape of a distant galaxy or the form of a snowflake.

In contemporary architecture I know of no finer sight than that of a great telescope dome, beautifully proportioned, on a mighty mountain top. Science can, and must, be brought more into play to help build our future harmony. Good luck to Prince Charles with his new Institute of Architecture; most of us are on his side.

Yours sincerely,
ARNOLD WOLFENDALE,
Astronomer Royal,
University of Durham,
Department of Physics,
South Road, Durham,
February 3.

Music teaching aims

From the Chief Executive of the Incorporated Society of Musicians

Sir, Mr David Paskall, chairman of the National Curriculum Council (letter, February 1), rightly hails the national curriculum for music as an exciting development which will benefit all our children. But his council's work so far has served only to jeopardise it.

The specialist music working group's proposals were wholeheartedly endorsed by the Welsh Curriculum Council earlier this year. By contrast, the NCC made no less than 60 amendments to them, and superimposed a list of detailed prescriptions.

On February 3 the secretary of state for Wales published draft orders which incorporate the working group's proposals in full, including the three attainment targets — performing, composing, appraising — which already form the basis of the curriculum in Scotland. Yet, on Mr Paskall's advice, the secretary of state has produced draft orders built on two attainment targets, with a half-hearted "weighting" towards practical work, and a mass of statutory requirements.

How has this divergence come about? The Welsh have decided to adopt a straightforward and logical structure, which is clear, practicable and easy to understand, for parents as well as teachers. The NCC, on the other hand, appear to have been

pursuing the chimera of "curriculum coherence".

Yet there is no relationship between their ideas for music history and the requirements for general historical studies. Rather, the NCC have arbitrarily imposed statutory requirements for studying particular musical styles, forms and periods.

They have undoubtedly made one sort of curriculum explicit. But what virtue or sense is there in compelling all pupils to study "symphony" or "oratorio"? Why not "concerto" or "opera"? And how will parents from non-Christian faiths react to compulsory doses of religious oratorio music for their 11 to 14-year old children?

The bulk of the NCC's mis-conceived and arbitrary suggestions is now enshrined in draft legislation for England. But it is not too late: consultation runs until March 4. Mr Clarke can and must think again, for the sake of music in the United Kingdom as a whole.

His orders as they stand are a recipe for divisiveness and confusion, and risk undermining the achievements of the GCSE syllabus. The only sensible way forward is for him to adopt the working group's proposals in their entirety.

Yours sincerely,
NEIL HOYLE,
Chief Executive,
The Incorporated Society
of Musicians,
10 Stratford Place, W1,
February 4.

Beetle risks

From Mr Peter L. G. Bateman

Sir, Dr Norman Myers's advocacy of the beetle (letter, February 4) should perhaps be tempered by some risk-benefit analysis. Woodboring beetles and carpet beetles cause but a small economic loss compared with the hundreds of species that devour much of the world's crops, both before and after harvest.

Store any commodity for long enough and a beetle will devour it and probably be named after it. The search for insect chemicals is also providing target-specific pest control. Maybe we should also study insect psychology?

From Councillor Andrew Turner

Sir, Six weeks' (or six years') delay in collecting unpaid community charge bills undoubtedly adds to the costs falling on local authorities.

The remedy, though, is not another rushed-through bill, but for councils, like the Inland Revenue, to be able to add interest to unpaid bills.

Your obedient servant,
ANDREW TURNER,
32 New High Street,
Headington, Oxford.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

There is already a Confused Flour Beetle and a Depressed Flour Beetle that presumably have troubles of their own. And what should we learn from the Bombardier Beetle which aims and fires a weapon of boiling hot liquid propelled by rocket fuel? Or the bright but cold light of the glow-worm beetle?

The problem of course will be the use to which we put such knowledge. Think again about that cantharidine, Dr Myers.

Yours faithfully,
PETER L. G. BATEMAN,
Poynings,
The Limes,
Felbridge, East Grinstead, Sussex.

Economic weakening?

From Mr Charles I. Yarwood

Sir, I have been taking a body-building course for several years. Before I started, people kicked money in my face, and I had to use both hands to bend my pay packet — now it only takes one.

I am confused. Am I getting weaker or stronger?

Yours sincerely,
CHARLES YARWOOD,
(Chairman),
Imperial Buildings (Horley) Ltd.,
Highcroft, Bonnets Lane,
Crawley, West Sussex.

OBITUARIES

SIR EDWARD RAYNE

Sir Edward Rayne, CVO, royal shoemaker, former chairman and president of the British Fashion Council and international bridge player, died on February 7 aged 69. He was born on August 19, 1922.

THE pebble glasses and transatlantic phrases of Sir Edward Rayne made him a distinctive figure in London fashion circles during the last 40 years.

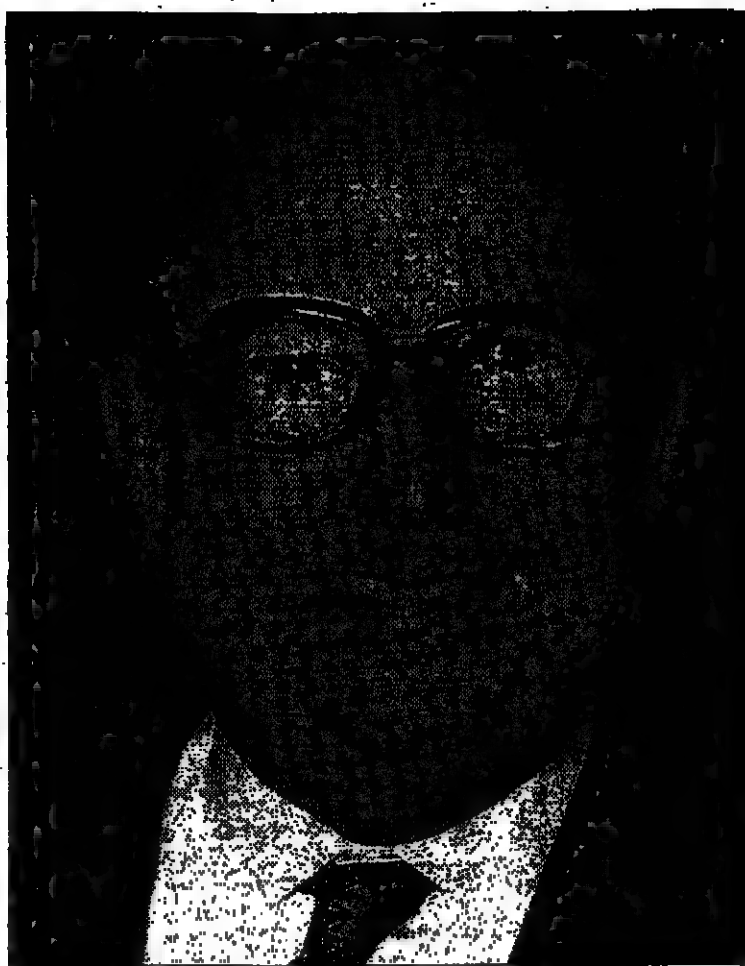
In that time he transformed his family's firm, the shoe retailers H. & M. Rayne, into an international business, and then took a similarly businesslike approach to lifting the British fashion industry to the point where it could at least claim the same degree of attention as Paris and Milan. He retired as chairman of H. & M. Rayne five years ago, and that company has since undergone changes of ownership. But he retained his keen interest in ensuring that clothing manufacturers and retailers worked more closely with designers — and that designers kept more of an eye on the till.

Edward Rayne was born in America, the homeland of his mother, Meta, who came from Le Roy, near Rochester, New York, and met his father while training as an opera singer in Italy.

The family business was begun in 1889 by Henry and Mary Rayne as a theatrical costumier by the Old Vic in Waterloo Road, south London. In 1918 Rayne's father, Joseph, took over the shoe side of the business, leaving the rest to his brother, Joseph, who opened his first shop in New Bond Street in 1920, when increasing numbers of women were wearing shoes as a fashion item. This trend developed so rapidly that only 15 years later Queen Mary awarded H. & M. Rayne its first Royal Warrant. The business had already been successful enough to go public in 1923.

Lillie Langtry, was one of its customers and a pair of flat, bowed pumps, originally designed for Gertrude Lawrence, remained the company's best selling shoe for 50 years, worn by royals and other well turned out, ladylike dressers.

Edward went to Harrow but had



to leave at the age of 16 because his eyesight was threatened by cataracts in both eyes. Operations saved his sight but forced him to wear thick pebble spectacles. That handicap barred him from active service in the second world war, so in 1940 he would arrive at the firm's King's Cross factory at 7.45 every morning to learn the 200 steps required to make a pair of luxury shoes. Two hobbies that his eyes did not deny him were playing golf and cards. As a young man, Rayne developed into an international bridge player, representing England at 21 and becoming part of the British team that won the European championships in 1948 and 1949.

In 1951, aged only 29, he became chairman of H. & M. Rayne on his father's death. The company was exporting to 12 countries and such customers as Vivien Leigh, Rita Hayworth, Marlene Dietrich and Ava Gardner were paying up to £40 — equal to more than £450 in today's money — for crocodile shoes. In 1961 Edward Rayne formed a joint company with the Delman shoe firm of the US, cementing a link which went back to his father's day and gave Rayne shoes exposure on New York's Fifth Avenue.

He was the first to sell shoes designed by Mary Quant, Roger McCann and Jean Muir. But Rayne also had an interest in the mass

market through the H.E. Randall and Lotus chains of shoe shops. In 1970 Rayne became the first British shoemaker to open a shop in Paris since Lobb of St James's had done so 70 years previously. Five years later he sold the family business to Debenhams, the London department store group, and through that became a director of Debenhams and chairman of Harvey Nichols, the Knightsbridge store.

In 1977 the Queen appointed Rayne a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order. The family had by then been supplying shoes to the royal family for over 40 years and still holds Royal Warrants from the Queen and the Queen Mother. Rayne was president of the Royal Warrant Holders' Association in 1984 and honorary treasurer from 1974 until last year the Royal College of Fashion. He continued to take an active part in the running of the London Fashion week as honorary president.

As these activities grew, he became a tireless supporter of industry associations. He was president of the British Footwear Manufacturers Federation, the British Boot and Shoe Institute and the Clothing and Footwear Institute, a member of the Export Council for Europe, the European Trade Committee and the Franco-British Council.

In 1981 Rayne was the first shoemaker to be elected master of the Worshipful Company of Pattern-makers. Patterns are undershoes originally meant to keep shoes free of mud. He was twice decorated for his contribution to the fashion industry. The first, in 1984, was the Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite from the French government for furthering Anglo-French commercial relations. Secondly, in 1988 Rayne was knighted for his work on behalf of the British Fashion Council.

Sir Edward was a man of style and panache, who applied an American breeziness to the once-stuffy British clothing trade and brought more commercial tactics to what had been a lacklustre industry. He is survived by his widow, Morris, and two sons, both of whom followed their father into shoe retailing.

In 1985 he became a founder member of a "gang of six" — with Sir Terence Conran, Lady Hender-

son (wife of Sir Nicholas Henderson, the former British ambassador in Paris and Washington), Beatrix Miller (former editor of *Vogue*), designer Jean Muir and Sir Roy Strong — to lobby for government support, and recruit royal patronage, for the industry. As head of the British Fashion Council, he used his considerable charm — and global contacts — to chivy store groups, publishing companies and the more successful among British fashion manufacturers to sponsor the trade exhibitions and shows staged by up and coming designers — his "little darlings" — that make up London Fashion week. He was the perfect host to the international store buyers and press who arrive in London twice yearly.

Rayne also encouraged the Burton Group to set up a school of business management at the Royal College of Fashion. He continued to take an active part in the running of the London Fashion week as honorary president.

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APPRECIATIONS

Bishop Gerald Mahon

ON HIS bedside table in the Littlehampton Hospice where Bishop Gerald Mahon (obituary February 7) spent his last months, there was a Hebrew prayer book. Dialogue with those of other faiths was always important for him.

For several years he was an active vice chairman of the Council of Christians and Jews. He had been active in the International Catholic Jewish Relations Committee and one of his last articles explained why the Anglican decade of evangelism should not imply active proselytisation of the Jews. He was a modest man, reluctant to accept honours and only hesitantly accepted the award for furthering Christian Jewish relations which bears his name.

He was very helpful in defusing the Auschwitz Convent dispute which soured for a while the progress of the dialogue. To this end he accompanied my wife and I to the Rome headquarters of the Carmelite Order to which the convent belonged.

Later he publicly called for the implementation of the previously agreed removal of the convent to a site just outside the perimeter fence.

where the new multi-faith centre was also to be built.

I am personally grateful to him for arranging in 1986, on the 20th anniversary of the Nostra Aetate, my investiture as a Knight Commander of Gregory the Great at West-



minster Cathedral Hall. He also in 1990 organised an audience with Pope John Paul resulting in a Papal declaration that anti-Semitism is a sin against God and humanity. Bishop Mahon attended many annual conferences of the International Council of Christians and Jews in many countries where he made a great contribution and was loved by all. He radiated warmth, goodwill and good humour.

Sir Sigmund Sternberg

Sir Roger Ormrod

THE main obituary for Sir Roger Ormrod (January 9) paid tribute to his lifelong links with the worlds of medicine and social work. He was, indeed, chairman of the University of London's largest

postgraduate medical school, the British Postgraduate Medical Federation, from 1979 to 1986. He steered the federation wisely through the stormy throes of the first cuts and rationalisation in the universities, setting the foundations for it to prosper in the more competitive years since.

Sir Rex Richards

JEAN-LOUIS JEANMAIRE

Jean-Louis Jeanmaire, Swiss traitor, died on February 5, aged 81.

UNTIL his retirement Jean-Louis Jeanmaire was a brigadier-general commanding Switzerland's Air Raid Protection Corps, a non-combat unit, and as a member of the general staff had inside knowledge on all branches of the army. In 1977, however, at the age of 67, he was convicted of passing Swiss military secrets to the Soviet Union and sentenced to 18 years in prison. He was released for good behaviour after serving 12 years and had spent the three and half years since then campaigning for rehabilitation.

For six years from 1969 Jeanmaire was chief of Swiss air defences. He was found guilty of passing vital Swiss defence data between 1962 and 1975 to the Soviet Union. He admitted passing documents on mobilisation plans for Switzerland's militia army to a Soviet military attaché in Bern in the 1960s but maintained they had little

military value. He claimed he had been made the scapegoat for a bigger Swiss security leak to the East Bloc that soured relations with the United States. Even before a preliminary investigation into the case had been completed, Kurt Furgler, a government minister, dubbed him Switzerland's "traitor of the century".

Jeanmaire's motives, for passing information remained obscure. At his trial he betrayed a certain fascination with the anachronistic, Vasily Denisenko, who he said had reminded him of "the great Russian officers of the Tsar". "He showed more interest in me than my superiors did," he added. In an interview last year he admitted Denisenko was the lover of his Russian-born wife Marie-Louise, against whom complicity charges had been filed but were later dropped.

Jeanmaire continued to protest his innocence, citing his fervent anti-communism. He had been attempting a third plea for rehabilitation when he died.

EDWIN WHITEHEAD

Edwin C. Whitehead, a self-made multi-millionaire who became one of America's leading philanthropists in the field of bio-medical research, died of a heart attack on February 2 while playing squash at his home in Greenwich, Connecticut, aged 72. He was born in New York City on June 1, 1919.

JACK Whitehead, as he was most commonly known, was the epitome of the American dream. He began with virtually nothing, amassed an enormous fortune and devoted the last decade of his life to using it for the benefit of mankind. The latter achievement proved more difficult than the former. "It's easier to make \$100 million than to give it away," Whitehead once said in frustration after two attempts to found institutes in bio-medical research had stirred controversy in academic circles.

He was trying to establish the concept of a privately endowed centre operating independently in the heart of a university, and finally succeeded with the foundation of the Whitehead Institute, which borders the campus of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. It is now recognised as one of the leading bio-medical research centres in the world.

MIT had approved the establishment of the institute in 1981, but it took many months of negotiating with professors fearful of losing



their academic independence before work could begin. Whitehead made an initial gift of \$7.5 million, then spent \$35 million on building and equipping the institute. After that he pledged another \$100 million, with \$5 million to be given annually, and the balance from a trust after his death. It was one of the largest philanthropic gestures ever made by a private individual.

The source of all this wealth sprang from a \$5,000 loan which Whitehead and his father obtained in 1939 to open a one-room office in the Bronx. Their company, which they called Technicon, was set up to manufacture laboratory equipment. The business took off some years later when Whitehead teamed up with a Cleveland

pathologist, Dr Leonard Skeggs, who had invented an automatic blood-analysis machine to speed up and improve diagnostic procedures. This sideline was so successful that Whitehead was able to sell the company to Revlon in 1980 for \$400 million.

After the sale of his business, Whitehead became president of a California-based investment firm and threw himself into his philanthropic work. It was, he said, an effort to return something to the well, and he was loud in his condemnation of corporate leaders who failed to give adequate support to scientific research and education. Once, sitting next to John D. Rockefeller III at a business lunch, he described corporate giving as "a pimple on a watermelon". Rockefeller invited him to stop by for a serious talk.

In addition to the Whitehead Institute, he helped to support Research America, a Washington-based organisation promoting public support for bio-medical research, and gave generously to New York University and the Hastings Centre where scientists and scholars debate the ethical problems arising from bio-medical research.

Edwin Whitehead was married four times. Three of his marriages ended in divorce, and his third wife, Elizabeth, died in 1983. He is survived by two sons, a daughter, and six step-children.

BARBARA COUPER

Barbara Couper, actress, died on January 10 aged 89. She was born on January 3, 1903.

BARBARA ("Barney") Couper was not a star, nor would she have claimed to be. She was, rather, a "leading lady", one of that almost vanished breed of British actresses, who through their innate style, impeccable diction and wide experience could be safely relied upon to grace the leading roles in plays of any period from Shakespeare to Shaw and beyond.

She received her stage training under Kate Rourke and Alice Gage at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and made her professional debut at Norwich, in December 1925, as Cloely in *The Boy Next Door*. Her first London appearance was at the Arts Theatre in 1928, as Maria in *The Power of Darkness*.

In the Thirties she made several appearances at the Embassy, Swiss Cottage, one of London's most imaginative theatres which was often used to try out plays for a possible West End run, in parts as varied as Emily Brontë in *The Brontës* of Hawthth Parsonage, Mme de Menthon in *Napoleon*, Mrs Dearth in *Barrie's Dear Brutus* and Judith Montague in *Distinguished Gathering*, which latter transferred to the St Martin's. In 1936 she went to Stratford for the season with roles ranging from Beatrice



to Goneril. She was in the Auden-Isherwood *The Ascent of F6* when it came to the Old Vic in 1939.

At the Westminster Theatre in 1946 she played Eleanor Dawson in *Frieda* and at the same theatre later that year gave one of her most memorable performances as Adelyn Chilcot in James Parrish's *Message For Margaret*. At an early Edinburgh Festival, in 1950, she played Queen Margaret in *The Saxon Saint*, and in the following year appeared, again at the Embassy, in a very different role as Helen Allisair, the beautiful proprietress of a home for unmarried mothers, in *Women of Twilight*, which transferred to the Vaudeville. During the run she became close friends with Vida Hope, who was playing her maid, and this led to an entirely new departure. In 1958 Vida Hope asked her to take on the role of Mrs Eulalia Humphreys in Sandy Wilson's musical version of Ronald Firbank's *Valmouth*. Despite her vast experience, she professed herself terrified at the prospect, but, when *Valmouth* opened at the Lyric, Hammersmith, she was triumphant and announced that she could not wait to do another musical. Vida Hope obliged by casting her in *Innocent as Hell* and, in 1963, in the Playhouse Theatre production of *House of Cards*, which moved to the Phoenix.

Her stage career was curtailed in the late Sixties by the necessity of caring for her husband, the BBC producer Howard Rose, who had suffered a leg amputation after a thrombosis. She continued to perform in films (among them, one of the St Trinian's extravaganzas) and on television and radio, and also wrote scripts for radio, including a definitive version of *Jane Eyre*.

In 1982 she was asked to appear in the Chichester Theatre revival of *Valmouth*, but was not well enough to do so. She did, however, go to see it and had a joyful reunion with the other members of the original cast, Bertice Reading, Fenella Fielding, Doris Hare and Marcia Ashton.

By nature modest and retiring, Barbara Couper was, in private life, a devoted wife, a witty and loyal companion, and an expert cook.

IGNACIO BERNAL GARCIA

Ignacio Bernal Garcia Pimentel, archaeologist, died at his home in Mexico City on January 26 aged 81. He was born in Paris on February 13, 1910.

IGNACIO Bernal's distinguished career in the pre-Columbian archaeology of Mexico was highlighted by his excavations and surveys in the state of Oaxaca, especially at the great site of Monte Albán where he began his studies under the guidance of the late Alfonso Caso. The rich finds of gold and precious stones made in the early 1930s in the pre-Aztec ruins at Monte Albán were compared in the press at the time to those made in Tutankhamen's tomb in Egypt.

A contemporary account in *The Times*, capturing the worldwide excitement aroused, reported that Caso and his team, which included the young Bernal, had discovered that they were approaching, at the foot of a stairway 150ft wide, a central tomb. Working in their enthusiasm 14 and 16 hours a day to remove debris, they came at

last to a flat, carved tablet in the ceiling of the tomb.

"The treasure inside the tomb exceeded all expectations. Entirely covering the mummies of ten Caciques of the Mixtec nation was a heap of cups, urns, vases, jars of onyx, jade, and rock crystal, together with numerous ornaments and utensils of gold inlaid with turquoise."

Bernal's investigations at Monte Albán, as well as at the Oaxacan sites of Coxcatlan, Mitla, Yagul, and Dainzu, were crucial in providing the important information that has carried the story of the rise of the Zapotecan and related civilisations well back into the first millennium BC and that has revealed just how these civilisations are interrelated with the other early cultures of Mexico and Central America.

In addition, Bernal directed field investigations in other parts of Mexico, including large scale excavations and architectural restorations at Teotihuacan, near Mexico City. The results of all these studies were made available to his archaeological col-



Ignacio Bernal and a Zapotec urn from the pre-Aztec ruins at Monte Albán

leagues in detailed publications of high quality. Besides these more strictly technical studies, Bernal's reputation also rests on his clear and engagingly written general books which include *Tenochtitlan en Una Isla* (1959); *The Olmec World* (1969); and *A History of Mexican Archaeology* (1980).



This last, which traces the origins and developments of the science of Mexican pre-history, shows its unique and close relationships with Mexican political life in the centuries immediately following the Spanish conquest. Bernal's outstanding career in archaeology was marked by distinguished ser-

vice in both academic and administrative posts, among these professorships at both the National University and Mexico City College. He was a moving force in the establishment of the new and handsome Museo Nacional de Antropología on the outskirts of Mexico City, and he served as its director from 1962 to 1968 and, again from 1970 to 1977.

He was also director (1968-1971) of the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, Mexico's parent foundation for archaeological and all other anthropological research within the country. Bernal was a visiting professor at many universities, including Harvard, California (Berkeley), the Sorbonne, London, Cambridge and Oxford.

His early education was in France (1922-26) and Canada (1927-30). In the 1930s he studied law at the National University of Mexico but in the 1940s he turned to archaeology. In this he was following a family tradition. His mother was the granddaughter of the famous Mexi-

can historian, Joaquín García Icazbalceta.

Ignacio Bernal ("Nacho") to his family and friends) was a man of great polish and charm. At one period, in the 1950s, he was his nation's cultural attaché at the embassy in Paris.

Bernal's father, according to "Nacho", had strong roots in the past. One day, in 1922, when they were visiting in Brussels, the elder Bernal announced to "Nacho": "Today, my son, we are to pay a call on our Empress." They travelled to a palace where they were ushered into the presence of the late Mexican emperor Maximilian's former consort, the Empress Carlota.

Maximilian, the brother of Emperor Franz Joseph of Austria, had ruled Mexico from 1864 to 1867 and by the time of Bernal's visit Carlota was a very old lady and had been mentally infirm for many years.

Bernal is survived by his widow, Sofia Vera Bernal, and their four children, Concepción, Rafaela, Ignacio, and Carlos and their families.

FEB 10 ON THIS DAY 1962

Franco Zeffirelli's keenly awaited production of Mozart's opera *Don Giovanni* had a notable cast but the Times critic seems to have been disappointed by what he called an atmosphere of early romantic gloom.

MOZART OBSCURED BY ROMANTIC GLOOM

Royal Opera House *Don Giovanni*

Don Giovanni	Cesare Siepi
Leporello	Grainne Evans
Donna Anna	Leif Gerner
Zerlina	Mirella Freni
Donna Elvira	Sena Jurinac
Masetto	Robert Saville
Don Ottavio	Richard Lewis
Commendatore	David Ward
Conductor	Georg Solti

Don Giovanni was at long last given again at Covent Garden last night in a new production by Mr Franco Zeffirelli. The conflict between the "dramma giocoso" of the libretto's title-page and the romantic passion of certain sections of the score is notorious, and provides every producer with a challenge to resolve it, or at least to keep the two elements so equally balanced that equal justice is done to both.

It might have been supposed that Mr Zeffirelli, who has sometimes (in his *Glyndebourne Elsinore*, for example) lavished ingenuity on recreating the atmosphere of early performances, would take up this challenge and give us a *Don Giovanni* in which passion and dry humour were equally blended. Instead he has chosen to bathe almost his entire production in an atmosphere of early romantic gloom and grandeur.

Of the extremely elaborate sets (so elaborate, it must be said, that in spite of the use of a drop curtain the musical flow was broken time and again while they were changed) the key one would seem to be that in which Don Giovanni himself meets his doom — a vast baronial hall lined with gigantic suits of armour. It is, surely, the great hall of the Castle of Otranto, and indeed what better place could there be for so sombre a supper-party? And

yet it has also to serve for the entertainment in the first act, and it makes an incongruous setting for the serving of light refreshments and the mingled strains of minuet and ländler. This contradiction is symptomatic of the entire visual side of the production.

If one mentions the visual aspect of this production first, it is simply because it is in this that Mr Zeffirelli's contribution is most conspicuous. As elaborate as his sets (and more consistent in style) are the costumes he has devised — sumptuous in richly sombre colours enlivened with gold. It is clearly his intention to create an atmosphere thick with passion, heavy with sensuality, but what he has achieved as a designer he has missed as a producer. Of the upper-class characters only Giovanni himself achieves real individuality in Mr Cesare Siepi's hands — lean as a greyhound and with a streak of self-destruction in his very energy.

The orchestra played as well as they always do for Mr Solti, yet the result was in some way strangely inhuman, alternating between extremes of tension and languor. The performance as a whole certainly had grandeur, yet Mozart's infinitely diverse humanity remained only partly realized; a film of romanticism blurred the entire conception.

MONDAY FEBRUARY 10 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

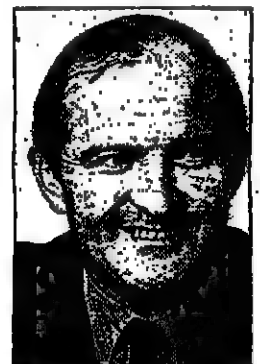
MAN OF THE WEEK

Hit man mixing oil and hot water

Bob Horton is rarely out of hot water for long. For years he was British Petroleum's hit man, sent in to sort out disasters. In the early Eighties, it was Horton who took the axe to the loss-making chemicals business. And when someone was needed to knock some sense into Sohio, BP's American acquisition, they called for Horton.

Fearlessly bright and energetic, he loves nothing more than a good confrontation. So it was no surprise to read last week that the sparks had been flying at BP's board meeting — though rumours of a split boardroom are stoutly dismissed by Horton. None the less it would be surprising if BP board meetings were calm, peaceful affairs.

BP has always been an intensely political place, which suits Horton down to the ground. His avowed ambition as a student at St Andrews university was to be either prime minister, or chairman of BP. As Horton battled his way up the corporate ladder, his main rival for the top job was the quieter, less aggressive David Simon. Clearly there is still a Simon following, and the carnage in the oil sector that has seen BP's price fall



Horton: sparking

from 361p to 278p in past years has not helped Horton's popularity. At St Andrews he embraced student politics not to mention acting, fencing and debating. He flirted with politics, joining the Bow Group with contemporaries such as Leon Brittan and Norman Fowler.

Horton has been chairman of BP since March 1990, a period described by one insider as "a reign of terror". Over 2,000 heads have rolled and there are more to come. Last week, the nutrition division was deemed no longer a core business, suggesting it is for sale. The fourth-quarter figures out on Thursday are expected to make grisly reading, causing speculation on the dividend. The market is listening for any hint of boardroom disunity. Just back from America, where he preceded President Bush as an after dinner speaker, he should be in sparking form.

JUDI BEVAN
Comment, page 19

Use of Euro money surges 25%

Banks promote ecu to fourth in currency league

By JONATHAN PRYNN

A SURGE in the growth of the ecu financial markets last year means that the European composite currency has become the fourth most important currency used by banks.

Figures from the Swiss-based Bank for International Settlements (BIS), published today, show that ecu-denominated international banking transactions grew by 25 per cent during the nine months to the end of last September. The total ecu assets of banks in Europe and Japan at the end of the period were £175.7 billion (£125 billion), or 5 per cent of the total of their internationally traded currency holdings, compared with £80.7 billion in 1987. Only the dollar (55 per cent), the mark (13 per cent) and the yen (6 per cent) were more important. There is, however, still little evidence of the ecu being used as payment in commercial transactions, according to the BIS.

The success of the ecu reflects the acceleration of progress towards European economic and monetary integration seen last year, which was accompanied by a flurry of ecu-denominated bond issues from sovereign borrowers, including the British government.

This process has continued in 1992 and last month saw a £1.5 billion 30-year bond, the first issue of any size in that maturity. In the nine months to last September,

£24 billion of new bond issues were announced, an unprecedented 12 per cent of all international bond issues.

Although most ecu trading is still accounted for by speculative dealing between banks, the non-bank sector has grown at an even faster rate. Over the past three years, ecu-denominated assets held by non-bank European residents have grown by an average of 50 per cent annually to reach £28.7 billion.

Residents of Belgium and Luxembourg, traditionally the most active private investors in the international bond markets, accounted for £4.9 billion of the total. British residents had deposits of £3.3 billion.

The BIS says: "The ecu has benefited from the commitment demonstrated by the governments of the European Community towards the creation of a European economic and monetary union."

Ecu use has been helped by



officially backed competition for market shares of what is the world's fastest growing traded currency. This has been demonstrated by substantial issues of ecu securities by governments, which has increased the depth and liquidity of the ecu secondary market and facilitated the growth of derivative products such as ecu futures. The secondary market in ecu bonds has grown tenfold since 1989.

In the banking market, London has been the main victor in the struggle for market share. At the most recent reporting date, it accounted for 27 per cent of total ecu assets compared with 20 per cent at the end of 1985. Meanwhile, the Paris share declined from 28 to 14 per cent and that of Brussels from 16 to 11 per cent. However, for futures products, the Paris-based MATIF exchange remains dominant.

The BIS says the ecu has also benefited from the "virtual absence of official regulation restricting the scope of activity" of the currency, which has given it "a competitive edge over some of the other currency sectors of the international securities market."

Development of an efficient settlement system for ecu transactions has encouraged the financial community to deal in the currency. Ecu assets have also given better returns than core EMS currencies, according to the BIS report.

Shell signs \$9bn gas deal

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

SHELL, the Anglo-Dutch oil company, is among three western European companies to participate in a \$9 billion gas liquefaction project in the Sultanate of Oman.

Said bin Ahmed al Sharfari, the Omani oil minister, signed a letter of intent with a number of oil companies, headed by Shell, Total-Compagnie Française des Pétroles

and Parlex of Portugal, in Muscat, Oman's capital, on Saturday.

The project will consist of two ventures, one for gas and condensate development and production and the other for liquefaction, shipping and marketing.

The Omani government will be the majority partner in both cases, with the oil com-

panies acting as minority partners. The aim of the project is to produce an eventual output of 5 million tons of gas a year, probably by 1998-9. At that rate the reserves are thought to be enough to cover 20 years' worth of exports and 50 years' worth of domestic consumption.

Shell International Gas has done a preliminary feasibility study, which indicates that the production target is "potentially commercially viable". The next step is an identification study, also to be conducted by Shell, which will look at the gas reserves in detail and evaluate the project's commercial prospects.

Oman's natural gas reserves are believed to be over 10,000 billion cubic feet. The Omani government is placing increased emphasis on gas to reduce its dependency on oil, which accounts for about 80 per cent of the Sultanate's total revenues.

Last year, the Omani government signed a seven-year gas exploration agreement with Transworld Oil, a Bermuda-based company. Oman is one of the smallest Middle Eastern oil producers and is not a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Fiat's Finnish rail deal opens up CIS network

By COLIN NABBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

FIAT, the Italian industrial group that already has a firm grip on carmaking in the former Soviet Union, could be about to exploit the region's potential for high-speed rail transport.

Fiat has won a \$500 billion (£231 million) deal under which its railway subsidiary Ferroviaria will deliver 25 high-speed trains to Finland and provide a stepping stone to the network that runs from the Baltic to the Pacific.

As a former part of the Tsarist Russian empire, Finland has the same broad-gauge railway as the Commonwealth of Independent States. A high-speed link from Helsinki to St Petersburg would involve only a small section of the decrepit Soviet network, being upgraded.

The "Pendolino" trains Fiat is supplying to the Finnish state railway are already in use in Italy. They are designed to travel at up to 200 kilometres an hour (125mph), much slower than the French TGV or the Japanese bullet trains. The important difference is that the Fiat trains can be used on normal tracks. The Finns are scheduled to begin testing the first two trains in 1994.

Harry Slime crawls to east sector

By PHILIP PANGALOS

THE legendary sewers of central Europe, the haunt of Harry Slime in an earlier black market era, are about to be invaded by the even slimmer, if more ethical, Leonardo and his friends.

European Licensing Group, Europe's largest independent licensing organisation, will try to take the former communist bloc of east and central Europe by storm with the help of Turtle Power.

The Amsterdam company, a joint venture between Copyright Promotions, the character licensing subsidiary of Mosaic Investments, and Merchandising München of Germany, has opened associate offices in Poland, Romania, Russia, Hungary, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania and Bulgaria. It is currently in the process of unleashing wonders ranging from the pizza-loving Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles to the Pink Panther.

The company hopes that the American craze that caught on over here will spread east with capitalism. Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles are already show-



Cowabunga: a job for a turtle

ing on television in Russia and Poland. ELG's other current properties include Tom and Jerry, Transformers, World Championship Wrestling, Mr Men & Little Miss, Judge Dredd, Dan Dare, GI Joe, My Little Pony, Playskool, Tonka and MGM Movies.

David Cardwell, joint managing di-

rector of Copyright Promotions and co-partner with Merchandising München in ELG, hopes the group will enjoy "fantastic growth in merchandising" as its diverse range of properties are introduced to eastern Europeans.

"Up to now, eastern Europeans have come across many of these products through black market imports. We were quite staggered at the initial reaction of local companies. The reaction has been enormous; we were quite surprised, but we are delighted with it," he added.

Mr Cardwell said: "With the opening of these offices in eastern Europe we are reaching a potential market of another 400 million people, which, added to the 300 million in western Europe, means that we have a total market worth 40 per cent of the world's GNP."

Depending on the success of the initial eastern European openings, ELG's next move will be to associate offices in Yugoslavia and Albania, offering their citizens the delights of Turtle jeans and pyjamas and Pink Panther T-shirts.

Royal to sell its merchant bank arm

By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE Royal Bank of Scotland has confirmed that it is planning to sell Charterhouse, its merchant banking subsidiary, to a continental European bank.

The Royal Bank's board has given the go-ahead to Charterhouse's management to look for potential buyers to help the bank expand its European business.

George Mathewson, Royal Bank's recently appointed chief executive, said he was prepared to sell Charterhouse but that there are no negotiations taking place at present. "We are keen to see Charterhouse expand its European dimension and are prepared to look at a change in its ownership structure to achieve this. We have not taken anything off the agenda," he said.

Royal Bank will consider an outright sale or could retain a minority in the bank. Any offer will need to be made at a substantial premium to Charterhouse's net assets of £230 million. Royal Bank has one of the strongest capital bases in the banking sector and will be in no hurry to sell.

The decision has been welcomed at Charterhouse as an opportunity to win international business by becoming a subsidiary of a major French or German institution. The bank has decided it is not large enough to expand into the continent on its own.

Victor Black, Charterhouse's chief executive, said: "All decent sized companies are looking at the single market. Half a dozen staff in every capital in Europe is not going to get us anywhere. A link with a major institution is the best way forward."

Charterhouse is believed to have held alliance negotiations with a European bank a year ago but these came to nothing. Leading contenders for an acquisition are expected to include Credit Lyonnais, Banque Paribas and Dresdner Bank.

Charterhouse has a range of operations that would attract a continental buyer. In particular, it is a leading player in the development capital market, which is still relatively undeveloped on the continent.

European HDTV system given Olympic debut

FROM ROSS TIEMAN IN ALBERTVILLE

THE battle to secure a place for Europe at the forefront of the consumer electronics industry in the Nineties begins in earnest this week amid the snows of the winter Olympics. Marcel Roulet, the president of France Telecom, launched the first commercial-scale demonstration of European high definition television (HDTV) technology in Albertville at the weekend.

As prime telecommunications contractor for the games, France Telecom and Telediffusion de France, its broadcasting transmission subsidiary, are responsible for transmission of almost 200 hours of HDTV coverage during the events.

The technology is resolutely European. France Telecom is a partner, with Philips of The Netherlands, and Thomson CSP of France, two of Europe's largest electronics groups, and 37 other companies, in Eureka 95.

This consortium has spent more than five years and £2 billion, half of it from European Community taxpayers, developing a common Euro-

pean HDTV technology. Japanese electronics companies have developed similar equipment to a different standard while America is expected to adopt a more advanced digital standard for HDTV technology within two years.

The pictures from Albertville will be received at 50 demonstration locations across Europe, 27 in France. In London, Philips will be demonstrating the system to TV and advertising executives and journalists at its headquarters in Tottenham Court Road while Ferguson, a subsidiary of Thomson CSF, will do the same at Alexandra Palace.

The European partners are now in a race to commercialise their technology in order to establish a market presence. Japan began eight hours a day of HDTV transmission last November. Technically, at least, HDTV will attract consumers. It has a wide-screen format, like a cinema screen, which corresponds more closely to the field of human vision than today's TV sets, and breathtaking clarity. HDTV dis-

plays picture components on 1,250 lines, twice as many as a conventional TV set, and has digital stereo sound.

The drawback, for the consumer, is the cost. Sharp, the Japanese manufacturer, has just announced a rival by announcing production of a receiving set costing less than 1 million yen, a quarter of the price of sets from rival manufacturers but still £4,500 a set.

Philips says it will market sets in mid-1993 for £3,500 or less. That is still pricey, and raises doubts about how quickly HDTV can become a mass consumer product. The challenge for Eureka 95 is to persuade broadcasters to adopt European technology now, rather than wait for standards to be confirmed.

This is likely to prove more difficult with independents, such as British Sky Broadcasting, than in France where the state can exert influence. The European Commission, which has played a close role in encouraging the development of a European standard, has backed away from coercing broadcasters. It supports a market approach.

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THE POUND

US dollar
1.8342 (+0.0417)
German mark
2.8687 (-0.0092)
Exchange index
91.4 (+0.5)

Bank of England official
close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
1945.1 (-51.5)
FT-SE 100
2517.2 (-54.0)
New York Dow Jones
3225.40 (+2.01)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
22107.12 (+84.07)

Recession makes people change the way they shop

By Gillian Bowditch

THE rapid onset of the recession, which led high street retailers to indulge in prolonged discount sales to clear stock, has changed the habits of British shoppers.

A survey by Verdict, the market research group, confirms that consumers now adopt a much more tactical approach to making big purchases of non-food items such as clothes or durable goods, and have become disenchanted with the supermarkets.

Verdict found that 42 per cent of shoppers now wait for sales to make a major purchase and affluence makes little difference to shopping patterns. Retailers are responding by extended price promotions beyond the traditional sale period.

Price consciousness has extended to food shopping, even though that has weathered the recession relatively unscathed. Shoppers who were concerned about quality, convenience and innovation in the Eighties are now more concerned about cost.

Verdict says that average disposable household incomes are still 20 per cent higher than eight years ago. Despite this, consumers' attitudes are being determined by the short-term impact of the recession on their pockets and confidence. The survey found that 57 per cent of adults and 60 per cent of

women think most products are expensive in large supermarkets and superstores. Even among the most affluent sections of society (AB socio-economic groups), 47 per cent think prices are high. Though they may be watching the pennies, shoppers are more likely to buy environmentally friendly products. More than half those surveyed said that when able to choose, they opt to use environmentally conscious shops. Women are more likely to spend in "green" shops than men. The members of the socio-economic group, C1, are most likely to shop at environmentally conscious shops, with 64 per cent saying such issues influenced their choice of retailer.

The day consumers least want to shop is Saturday. Fifty-four per cent of adults said they avoid it if possible. The new groundswell of complaints about supermarket prices is already affecting political attitudes and public policy. Sir Bryan Carsberg, who becomes director general of the Office of Fair Trading in June, has said he will look into food prices in Britain and compare them with the rest of Europe.

Another report, published by Business Strategies, a consultancy, suggests Sir Bryan may have difficulty coming up with clear conclusions.

The report says differences in market structure, consumer demand and accounting standards make international comparisons difficult. "It is impossible to conclude from these comparisons that UK retailers earn excessive margins. Moreover, the high levels of investment in the UK mean that returns on total capital employed are similar," says Business Strategies. In most European countries, particularly Britain, food prices have risen by less than the general rate of inflation in recent years. This is due to different causes in different countries, says the report, but is probably due to retailing efficiency in Britain and The Netherlands.

British consumers spend far less on food than in comparably sized France and Italy. Supermarkets take a much larger share of food sales than in other EC countries. Concentration of sales among the top five retailers, though much higher in Britain than in Mediterranean countries, is similar to the low countries and lower than in Germany, Austria or Switzerland. British retailers seem to dominate the top of league tables of the most profitable in Europe, but this may be because comparable figures are not available for many leading privately owned retailers on the Continent.

BRUSSELS NOTEBOOK

Last-gasp lobbying by Marlboro countrymen

THE European parliament in Strasbourg is once again about to debate the European Commission's proposals for the tobacco industry — with the industry lobby in Brussels frantically trying to convince everyone of its importance to the European economy.

The proposed blanket ban on advertising has been the most controversial question so far, with the right-wing MEPs succeeding at the last parliamentary session in postponing a vote; that should take place this time round, and will probably reaffirm that the Strasbourg majority is in favour of a ban.

But recently the cigarette lobby has been concentrating on another commission proposal, also to be discussed this week, that excise duty should constitute a minimum of 57 per cent of the price of cigarettes throughout the EC.

Philip Morris executives claim the new rule would exacerbate the price difference between northern Europe, where prices would rise, and southern Europe, where they would stay about the same. They say this will encourage "bootlegging" between member states.

The industry claims bootleggers could fill up a three-ton truck in Portugal with cigarettes and sell them in Denmark, making a profit of £125,000. Executives, with a touching dash of altruism, say the commission should not be proposing rules that would deprive governments of revenue. But Michael Horst, Philip Morris's corporate services chief, admitted the concern was rooted in something closer to his heart: the Italian government, annoyed at the number of Marlboro cigarettes being smuggled into the country, simply slapped a month's ban

on the brand before Christmas — at a cost to Philip Morris of £140 million.

□ If only Philip Morris would start making biofuels instead, which the commission sees as much better for us than cigarettes. New Brussels proposals would keep excise duties on these eco-friendly fuels to a minimum.

Bioethanol, an ethyl alcohol produced by fermentation of sugar from beet or starch from potatoes, should be liable to excise duty of no more than 10 per cent of that on unleaded petrol, the commission says. It proposes a similar limit on esterified vegetable oils, which can be mixed 50/50 with diesel without modifying engines.

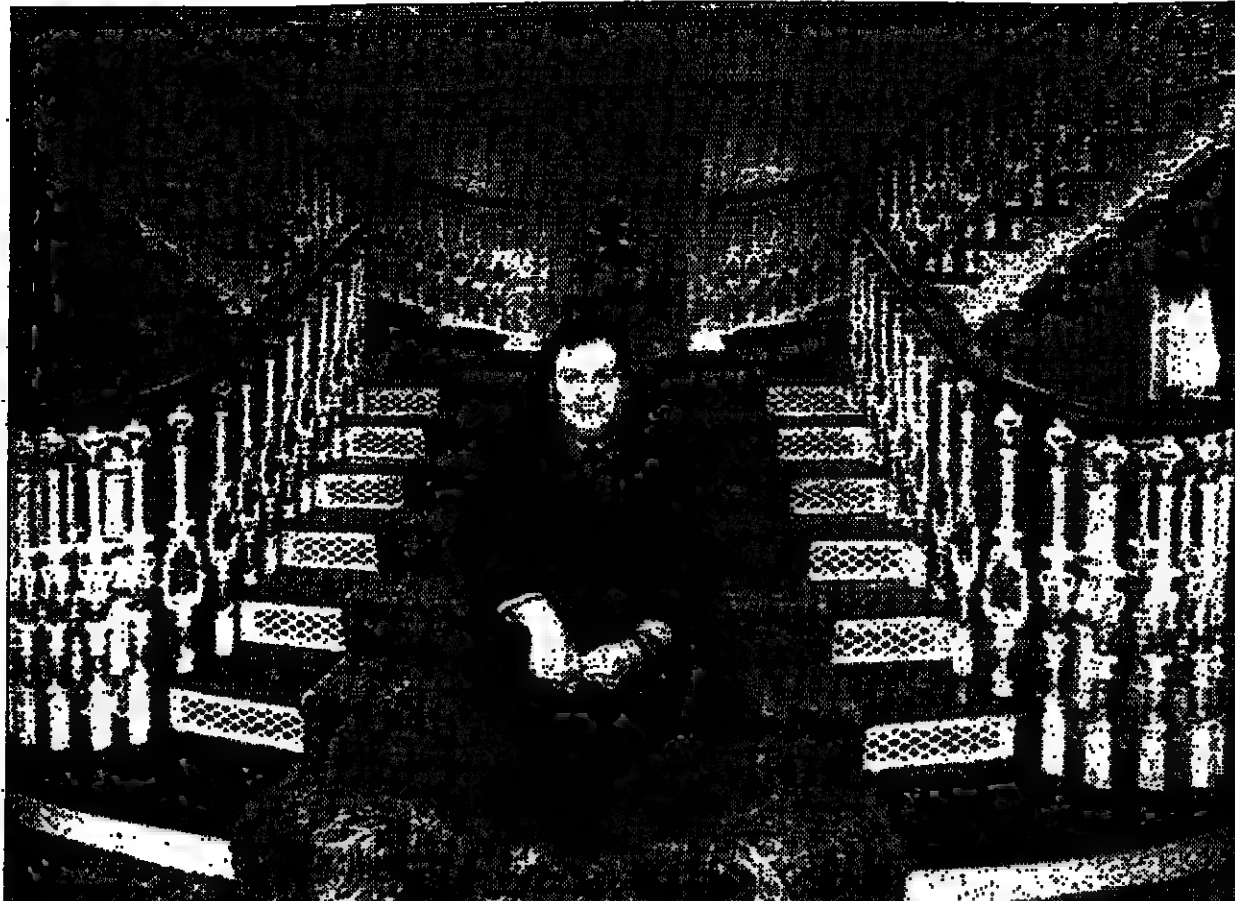
□ Alternative fuels may come too late to save Sabena, the

Belgian airline, in danger of being sunk by a linguistic dispute between Walloons and Flemings. The Flemish nationalist party, Volksunie, wants to scrap a deal in which Air France would take 37.5 per cent of Sabena.

Never mind that without the partnership, Sabena, which has never made a profit, would probably be finished. Volksunie does not want to see the national airline imbued with Gallic *je ne sais quoi*. Conversely, of course, a KLM rescue package for Sabena was fiercely resisted by Walloon socialists last year. Meanwhile, the struggling flag-carrier can't even offer a summer schedule.

TOM WALKER
Brussels

Touche appoints itself hotel receiver



Mounting problems: Ralph Preece, appointed by Touche Ross as receiver of Scarborough's Royal Hotel

IN one of the stranger twists in the collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, Touche Ross, the bank's liquidator, has awarded itself the receivership of the Royal Hotel in Scarborough, one of a chain of hotels that is among BCCI's heaviest borrowers in Britain (Neil Bennett writes).

Ralph Preece and Lindsey Denney, Touche Ross partners, were appointed by the firm as receivers of the Crown group of hotels, which owes BCCI at least £40 million.

The hotels also include the Granby in Harrogate, North Yorkshire; the Tregenna Castle in St Ives, Cornwall; the Royal Station Hotel in Newcastle-upon-Tyne; the Midland in Bradford and Great Moreton Hall near Stoke-on-Trent.

As BCCI's liquidator, Touche Ross was forced to put the six hotels into receivership after it became clear they could no longer service their debts due to a fall in business during the recession. Touche Ross is searching for buyers for the hotels.

The rare self-appointment to the Crown hotels occurred when the accountancy firm hit problems over awarding an indemnity to a receiver. In receiverships, the lead bank normally grants an accountancy firm an indemnity to cover it against a range of potential liabilities.

The fraud and uncertainty at BCCI meant that Christopher Morris, BCCI's liquidator from Touche Ross, felt he could not issue any indemnity. So he was forced to appoint other partners from the firm as receivers.

Leading article, page 13

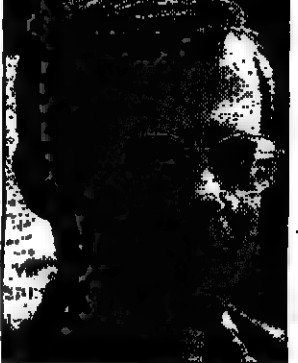
Bull seeks further financial partners

By Wolfgang Münchau, European Business Correspondent

BULL, the French state computer maker, will make further strategic and financial alliances on top of a much-publicised technology and equity deal with International Business Machines (IBM). This could involve a further strengthening of the alliance with France Telecom, the French state-owned telecommunications operator and holder of 17 per cent of Bull's equity, might play a more prominent role in the future of Bull.

He said: "France Telecom government to secure the company's long-term viability of the company. He refused to specify precise details of the talks but indicated France Telecom, the French national telecommunications operator and holder of 17 per cent of Bull's equity, might play a more prominent role in the future of Bull."

He said: "France Telecom



Lorentz: "more deals"

is an important partner, and will become more so. A strong alliance with France Telecom is most important to us."

There has also been speculation in France that the government might consider another capital increase on top of the promised Fr5 billion, half of which was paid in 1991, with the remainder due later this year. The dis-

cussions between Bull and the French government are likely to focus on the financial situation of the company, after losses of Fr6.8 billion in 1990, and a further Fr1.94 billion in the first half of last year. Bull responded by restructuring, with the loss of about 20 per cent of the company's total workforce. More may go if the computer market does not improve.

The French government rescue package was designed to restore Bull's profitability by 1993, but there are doubts whether this can be achieved. Bull may receive more finance, either from government, or a government-owned company or bank. M. Lorentz said: state-ownership helped the company pursue long-term targets, though his feelings about state-ownership were mixed, because "there are fears, sometimes, that the company's strategy could be partly political."

M. Lorentz said rejection of the earlier cash injection by the commission could lead to Bull's collapse. Referring to the fact that with IBM and NEC of Japan, Bull had two private-sector shareholders, he said: "The commission's final assessment will be based on evaluation of what a private investor would have done. The cost of closing the company would be far higher."

Burton's paper rating is cut

The credit risk of Burton Group has been raised sharply by one of America's top rating agencies, which says the retailer faces continued pressure on profits (Philip Robinson writes from New York).

Moody's Investors Service has downgraded Burton's commercial paper risk, effectively an IOU designed to borrow money over short periods, to junk bond levels. It dropped Burton's rating from prime-3 to not prime, the lowest level and a reduction in status from investment to speculative grade.

A lower rating lifts the cost of borrowing in the commercial paper market. Burton suspended this form of funding last August, after Moody's put the group under review. The agency said Burton's established position in the British fashion market meant operating returns will remain highly geared to sales and dependent on an upturn in the economy.

Salomon chief for London

Salomon Brothers, the scandal-hit American investment house, will announce a new chief of its London operations today as a replacement for Jim Massey, the firm's former head of international business, who is returning to New York as head of Salomon's investment portfolio business.

The changes are the latest in a management shake-up instituted by Deryck Maughan, the new chief executive, after Salomon admitted breaching the rules in American treasury bond auctions last year.

Mr Massey's departure comes after a series of resignations and dismissals in London due to the firm's problems and a fall in bonuses.

Wine and spirit sales fall faster

The recession has caused an accelerating decline in sales of wines and spirits. Disappointing spirit sales in the Christmas quarter may have cut total sales volume for 1991 by up to 15 million bottles, according to the Wines and Spirits Association. At current tax rates, the shortfall could cost the Treasury over £100 million in lost revenue. The association forecasts a revenue shortfall of £25 million on wine.

It estimates that overall spirit sales in the final quarter of 1991 declined by 5 per cent against the last three months of 1990, which was itself depressed by recession and events in the Gulf.

First step to City promotion

Sir Brian Jenkins, the Lord Mayor of London, is to propose an exhibition of a model of the City at the Royal Exchange in May as the first step in a plan for a permanent promotional centre for London's central business district.

The refurbished Somerset House is the City's favourite site for a permanent centre. London was criticised in a recent study as the only international city without a permanent promotional centre for business opportunities and available properties.

Post Office plea

Sir Bryan Nicholson, chairman and chief executive of the Post Office, said the Post Office should be able to borrow directly in financial markets. Speaking on BBC 2's *The Money Programme*, he said the Post Office's rivals would otherwise move into the most profitable parts of the business, threatening services to residential customers.

Bryant & May strikes a balance with nature

By Colin Campbell

THE humble match, born in 1827 and ever since a faithful friend to light fires for the poor and cigars for kings, has been virtually re-invented in an attempt to make it environment friendly.

Matches were once notorious for being dangerous to make, let alone use, but Bryant & May, Britain's only boxed-match maker, has made a series of changes.

As the supplier of most leading brands of safety match, including Swan Vesta "strike anywhere" matches, Bryant & May has eliminated sulphur from the head of the safety match, replacing it with ferro phosphorus. Zinc oxide, used only in safety matches to stabilise the glue that binds the components of the match head,

has gone entirely. Bryant & May has also found ways to make matches burn as brightly without potassium dichromate, which is harmful to the environment and humans, possibly leading to ulcers, and in extreme cases damage to the nasal cavity.

Animal hide glue, previously used as a binder, has been replaced on the head of safety matches by scrap gelatine and in "strike anywhere" matches by vegetable starch.

Soya and milk protein are being considered as possible binding agents.

The stick of a Bryant & May match is made from aspen, a form of poplar with a 60-year life cycle that is grown in managed forests. From one average sized tree,



Green light: matches with an environmental message

a million match sticks can be made, and aspen acreage has been growing faster than the trees that are felled. Even the match box is re-born. Today's box is made of recycled paper and board.

David Wheeler, managing director of Bryant & May, which is a member of Swedish Match, the world's largest lightmaker, says that in making the match more friendly, the company has "struck a balance with nature".

The price, which last went

up 1p to 8p for the average box of 43 in 1989, will stay the same. The group's research laboratories, under the direction of Dr Michael Cox, are working on additional refinements to the modern match, and further "green" breakthroughs may not be far off.

The match had already changed much since 1827, in all but appearance. In the early days, matches contained yellow phosphorus, a substance that made teeth fall out — a condition known

as phossy jaw. In the 1850s, a match without yellow phosphorus was produced. It was called a "safety match" because it was not poisonous and did not burst into flames on its own accord. A safety match needs to be struck on a special board.

"Strike anywhere" matches, as their name implies, jump to life when struck on virtually any rough surface. They shed their yellow phosphorus content and thus lost their poisonous tag at the turn of the century, when phosphorus sesquisulphide took its place.

Demonstrating that a long-standing monopoly has not lost the desire to innovate is important for Bryant & May, for commercial as well as environmental reasons. Mr Wheeler and his colleagues are still twirling

match sticks waiting for the decision of Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, on the Monopolies and Mergers Commission's second report in four years involving the company.

The supply of matches and disposable cigarette lighters was referred for a monopoly enquiry last May on a recommendation from Sir Gordon Borrie, the director general of fair trading.

Then, Sir Gordon said: "I am concerned that price competition in the market, in this country may not be as effective as it might be."

The commission handed in its report on January 20. When Mr Lilley's decision is announced, it may be an occasion for Bryant & May either to light a candle or a bonfire — with a Swan Vesta of course.

WHERE CAN YOU FIND A WORKFORCE YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORCE TO WORK?

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The unkindest cut of all

After vigorous debate, British Petroleum will announce this week whether its board has decided to increase its final quarterly dividend in the face of poor trading results. Pride, prudence and reputation are all involved. At least BP shareholders should be left with a higher dividend for the year, thanks to modest rises in interim payments. The boards of several of the finest names in the financial establishment face a much tougher choice by the end of this month: to maintain dividends from reserves or make a realistic but humiliating cut to reflect appalling trading.

Discreet canvassing of the opinions of institutional shareholders has been undertaken by banks and insurance groups. This is a bizarre exercise, since these very companies are among the biggest investors in company shares. Such exercises now usually elicit a widespread view that investors appreciate realism. They must only be convinced that management is dealing with its problems and cutting costs to pave the way for a rapid recovery in profits and dividend growth. Some think straitened financial aristocrats have tried to keep up appearances for too long. Demonstrating apparent financial strength through high dividends has damaged capital ratios or solvency margins, and therefore their capacity to grow and compete with continental rivals with lower payouts.

A few important investors, often investment houses without comparable trading problems, will by contrast regard dividend cuts as virtually a betrayal. These are cyclical businesses. Companies made an implicit — and sometimes explicit — compact with shareholders, that profit volatility would not be reflected in dividends; they should not chicken out at the bottom of the cycle. If the majority of big investors seem tolerant, boards know that they will only make enemies with dividend cuts.

Three of the biggest high street banks face this dilemma. Loss-making Midland cut last year and is expected to pass its final payment this time to conserve near-exhausted distributable reserves. Barclays could nearly cover a maintained dividend and expects recovery in 1992, though the small dividend rise expected by many analysts might look irresponsible. NatWest, whose shares yield over 8 per cent on last year's payment, faces the toughest decision. Profits will be minimal, possibly leaving about £200 million of a maintained dividend uncovered. Lord Alexander, the chairman, seemed to be preparing the City for a cut. Most analysts now expect the payment to be maintained, but would NatWest approve such behaviour by its borrowers?

A five big composite insurance companies will incur huge losses, with only Commercial Union's likely to be under £100 million. Hits from storms, subsidence and mortgage indemnities, coming in the trough of the general insurance cycle, have had such a cumulative effect that even Sun Alliance, financially the strongest, has seen its solvency ratio subside faster than a house built over a pit. Royal, the weakest, has made much of tough new management personalities and strategy, paving the way for a dividend retreat now seen as inevitable. Shares in Guardian Royal Exchange, which likewise oozes retrenchment and realism, yield an historic 12.4 per cent against Royal's 14.3 per cent. A cut would cause little shock. GRE is seen as a continental bid candidate, but arming its balance sheet might give better protection. CU, Sun Alliance and, most oddly, General Accident, are expected to keep marching proudly ahead, even though analysts do not expect dividends to be covered even by 1993 earnings. The debate will therefore simply go on, even louder.

Analysts have been quick to scorn German steelworkers' claims but Anatole Kaletsky thinks they are missing the real danger signals

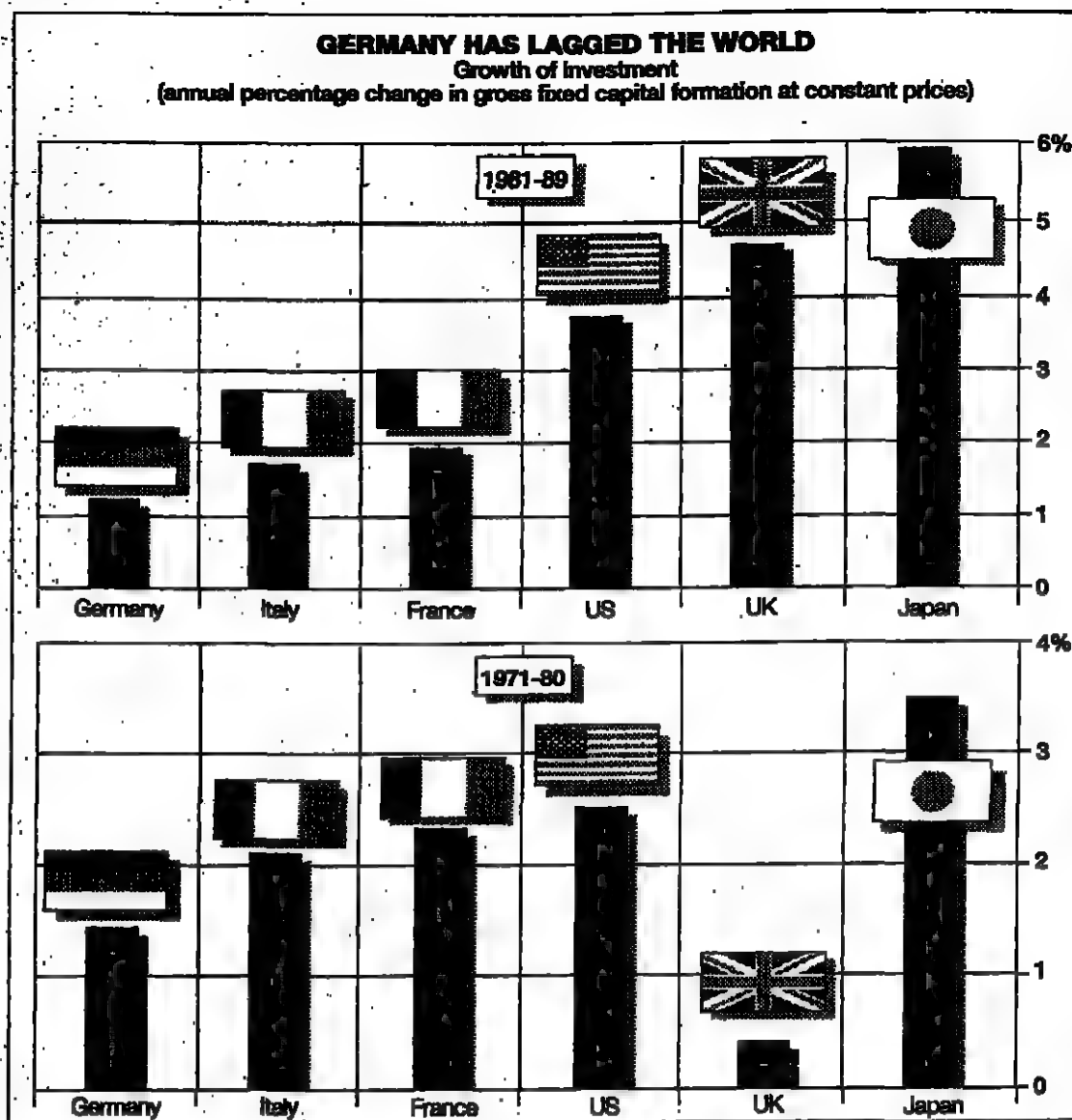
The common frog apparently has a curious anatomical feature: its eyes are designed in such a way that it can only see fast-moving objects. When David Henderson, the leading head of the OECD economics department, regaled me with this information, he was complaining about the way that politicians, journalists and analysts only seemed to notice rapid, and usually meaningless, fluctuations in economic events. In doing so, they often failed to understand the slow movements of business cycles or the structural shifts in the world economy, whose consequences could not be directly seen for many years.

The over-excitable world of the New York and London financial markets has always been the main spawning ground for frog myopia, but it has now spread over the Swiss Alps. There were three main talking points at the annual gathering of the good, the great and the self-important last week in Davos: the inflationary sins of German trade unions, the economic chaos in the former Soviet Union, and the confrontation with Japan resulting from the American recession.

All these are classic cases of frog myopia. The root cause of the tension between America and Japan is not the recession, the growth of the Japanese trade surplus or the inability of Chrysler and Ford to sell their cars except to junkyard purchasers. It is the erosion of America's economic self-confidence since the late Sixties, which I discussed last week.

In the former Soviet Union, the most remarkable development has not been the onset of hyperinflation or the possible removal of yet another government. It has been the steady, though sometimes imperceptible, expansion of private enterprise, which has already spread far beyond the officially recognised private sector into most of the theoretically state-owned firms. By far the most important announcement connected with the former Soviet Union at Davos was the promise by Anatoly Chubais, the Russian minister for state property, that 75 per cent of retailing and distribution would be in private hands this year.

Beyond that, it was clear from conversations with managers of Russian state enterprises that the process of "spontaneous privatisation" was far advanced. Many state enterprises have effectively been taken over or, put it more bluntly, stolen by their managers and workers. They are now being run for their



own benefit, rather than the state's. This process is unjust, unpopular and even illegal, but with the politicians bickering over borders, currencies and even place-names, the gold-rush morality of spontaneous privatisation may be the only way to get capitalism moving. Privatisation and distribution of wealth should be the focus of economic advice to the former Soviet Union, instead of the headline-grabbing monetary crises and price reforms.

Turning to Germany, the fast-moving issue has been the threat to the economy posed by last week's steel industry pay settlement. The increase of 6.4 per cent has been described as irresponsible, dangerous and even catastrophic. According to most financial analysts, a long strike would have been far preferable to any negotiated settlement above 6 per cent. But what is the significance of the magic 6 per cent figure? Is it worth bringing the country to a standstill to pare wage rises from 6.4 to 5.9 per cent?

Anyone who lived through the Seventies in Britain should find these questions easy to answer. In 1978, Denis Healey's insistence on

a 5 per cent pay norm was largely responsible for the winter of discontent, the fall of the Labour government and the catastrophic outbreak of private-sector union militancy and wage inflation in 1979. By contrast, Mrs Thatcher immediately recognised the way government-decreed ceilings transform themselves into union negotiators' minimum demands and impose a dangerous rigidity on the economy and the labour market. The resulting collisions between the unions' apparently legitimate aspirations and the elected government's publicly stated commitments could have many outcomes — the defeat of the government, the defeat of the unions or, as in 1979, the defeat of both. But one thing was certain: the first victims would be economic rationality and political common sense.

Since the steelworkers' settlement, Bundesbank officials have sounded more determined than ever about suppressing inflation, but so have union leaders about winning 6 per cent plus deals. It seems the irresistible force of the well-financed and dis-

ciplined German unions' pay demands is about to hit the immovable object of Bundesbank monetary policy. If so, the outlook for Germany and, through the ERM, the whole of Europe is indeed dire.

But is the Bundesbank really about to repeat Denis Healey's mistake of setting an arbitrary pay norm and then ruining the economy to defend it? Looking beyond the daily headlines, the evidence suggests otherwise.

The Bundesbank has always insisted that it defends monetary targets, not wage targets. The critical factor governing German interest rate policy will, therefore, be the growth of the money supply, not the growth of wages. Wage deals may influence monetary policy at the margin. But 5.9 per cent settlements will not in themselves open the way to monetary easing, nor 6.4 per cent deals rule it out. German inflation, too, will be affected only marginally by the exact pay settlements reached. In the weakening German economy, the main impact of slightly higher wages is likely to be on profit margins, not on consumer prices. Given the high profits and

strong balance sheets built up by most German firms during the unification boom, some modest reduction in margins is unlikely to cripple plans for investment, especially those for the eastern Länder. In the East, the crucial factors for investment are government subsidies and East-West wage differentials, not negotiated national pay scales.

As unions and employers both recognise that there is nothing magical about the 6 per cent figure, they should begin to find room for compromise, and Germany should be able to avoid a rerun of the winter of discontent. As a result of the steelworkers' settlement, therefore, the much-prized consensus between the two sides of German industry seems likelier to survive. Thus the chances of industrial peace are now better than they were two weeks ago, and the prospects for inflation and interest rates are hardly worse, if at all.

Yet the world is probably right to feel uneasy about Germany's long-term economic prospects, regardless of the present wage round or the precise timing of the next move in monetary policy. Such fast-moving events as unification and Bundesbank policy changes have distracted attention from more important structural weaknesses in the German economy which have been developing for years or even decades. In the decade before the unification boom, Germany had the slowest productivity growth and by far the worst investment record of any major industrialised country (see chart). In fact, Germany became a notable laggard from the early Seventies onwards, competing with Britain and America for the wooden spoon. Even its much-vaunted export prowess was largely an illusion, created by the increasing integration of neighbouring European markets. Looking at sales outside Europe, German exporters have been consistently beaten by Japanese and American competitors for 20 years, spectacularly so since the devaluation of the dollar in 1985.

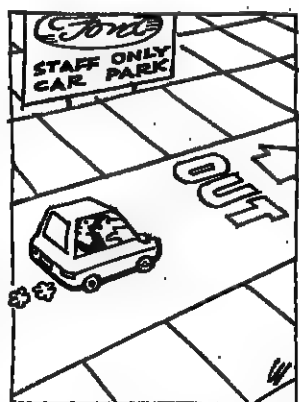
Ten years ago, the world became so alarmed about the creeping economic paralysis spreading from Germany to the whole of Europe that it invented the term "Euro-sclerosis". A heated debate ensued about the possible causes. Was Euro-sclerosis due to "structural rigidities" such as high government spending, subsidies and labour market regulations? Or to the "stability-oriented" policies of high interest rates and low economic growth, pursued by the Bundesbank and imposed by the ERM on the rest of Europe?

Amid the excitement over 1992 and German unification, Euro-sclerosis was forgotten in the late Eighties. With the whole of Europe now under the sway of Germany's slow growth, high-subsidy, high-interest model, it is time to start worrying about Euro-sclerosis again.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Hagan dazed

BRITISH & Commonwealth bondholders, recently informed by the administrator that their holdings were worthless, might be interested to learn of the behind-the-scenes negotiations that have been going on over Exco, the money and securities broking concern and generally accepted to be the jewel in B&C's slightly tarnished crown. A cash bid of £85 million has, I am told, been made for Exco — which still employs 2,000 people — by a group of managers and investors led by David Hagan. Hagan, some of you may recall, was the founder and former managing director of Tullett & Tokyo, where he developed a successful screen-based inter-dealer broking system. His proposed "management buy-in", which would have resulted in him becoming Exco's new chief executive, has involved eight months' work and was to have been funded by Electra. Advisers to the deal were Phoenix Securities, whose subsidiary, Phoenix Fund Managers, was also to have provided part of the finance. However, an announcement is expected today to say that the Hagan proposal has been declined, in favour of a considerably less generous offer by the incumbent management and merchant bank NM Rothschild. This deal, apparently favoured by the creditors' committee, will involve a 50 per cent private placement of Exco stock with United Kingdom institutions, including Caledonia. Meanwhile, Exco's figures, which are due to be reported soon, are expected to show that, in 1991, the company just about broke even.



"Sorry to lose you, he said — but we need the space for unsold cars."

Quick millions

STEPHEN O'Byrne of Towers Perrin, a New York consultant, estimates that the surge on Wall Street in 1991 brought an average gain of \$2.63 million each for the men and women who run America's 100 biggest companies. He based his findings on the appreciation of shares and options held at the start of 1991. The Standard & Poor's 500 gained 26 per cent last year.

Miles' miles

HOW many folk in the City have thought about chucking it in and flying off to a Pacific paradise? Miles Morland, who set up and ran the London office of First Boston in the Eighties, only got as far as France. But he wrote a book about his experiences; and later this month his City acquaintances will be able to read of his exploits first-hand. Morland threw in his highly paid City job in 1989 at the age of 45 and set out to walk across France, accompanied by his wife. The book which followed has enough jibes about the Square Mile to en-

courage other waverers to follow his example. "The bigger it got, the less I enjoyed the job," says Morland who joined John Gove as an investment analyst after leaving Oxford in the Sixties and spent several years on Wall Street before returning to Britain in 1983. "Of his walk, he is unrepentant. 'Half the people I used to work with in the City think I'm eccentric and the other half would like to do it as well.'"

ICI on Paris Francois
WELCOME to the new Europe. Wolsey, the world's biggest supplier of plumbing products, summoned building analysts on Friday to announce it was buying France's biggest plumber for \$95 million. Jeremy Lancaster, the chairman, suggested showing a video which, he told his guests, would explain everything they needed to know about the company. When it ended, he asked if there were any questions. There were none. The video was in French.

Cross-pollinated

Red faces at Rudolph Wolff, the metal broker, over the latest edition of its guide to the London-Metal Exchange. Readers of the guide, published by Metal Bulletin Books, at a stiff £44, got far more than they bargained for. In some of the first copies, between chapters on "hedging in practice", "pricing systems for base metals", and other lively topics came a chapter on the sight and smell of the bee. "The printer was doing two books at the same time and somehow they got mixed up," explained a spokesman.

JON ASHWORTH

Perils of MBA expansion

From Professor Samuel Eilon
Sir, Your Focus on MBA programmes (February 5) is a timely reminder of the great proliferation of MBA courses that has taken place in this country in recent years. From virtual obscurity not such a long time ago, business and management courses constitute the fastest growing field of study at institutions of higher education, so much so that no self-respecting university can nowadays afford to be without a business school, avidly competing with others for students to register for its MBA degree.

In principle, this rapid expansion is welcome, but it is not without its dangers. These include a fall in quality in student admissions, inflated and unrealistic expectations of high grade job prospects on graduation (fanned by exaggerated claims of courses in business strategy), and "innovative" programmes that pander to passing fashion in so-called man-

agement theory, resulting in courses that are strong on glitz but weak on substance.

The distinctive impression is that in their keen competition to capture a "fair share of the market", some business schools have progressively pared their requirements and that standards have consequently suffered (in one part-time MBA course run by a reputable institution, the cumulative time spent in residence amounts to 18 weeks spread over three years, hardly adequate to cover even basic subjects in any depth).

All these developments are a cause for concern and the time has come for action to halt this downward trend. Perhaps an independent body for rigorous monitoring and accreditation should be set up to safeguard high standards for MBA courses, standards that students, industry and academic institutions can be proud of.

Yours faithfully,
SAMUEL EILON,
1 Medway Close, NW11.

Power pool prices

From the commercial director, Nuclear Electric Plc
Sir, Electricity price rises, highlighted in "Big power users seek boycott of nuclear levy" (February 4) are nothing to do with the fossil fuel levy.

The new structure of the electricity market, whereby all power is bought and sold at a common price through the pool, is the main driver behind the price rises. All generators, suppliers and large consumers have the option of either trading solely at pool price and taking the risk of price volatility, or concluding hedging contracts to ensure stable and predictable prices.

There is thus no commercial incentive for any company to offer prices at a dis-

count to those they could receive from the pool. This, in effect, precludes the continuation of the preferential pricing policies adopted by the CEB.

This situation was supported by Offer in its recent pool price enquiry report in which it stated that "... measures to provide especially low prices via discrimination or cross-subsidy are no longer available".

As far as the fossil fuel levy is concerned, the contribution Nuclear Electric receives is fixed in contracts which ensure that, in real terms, it falls year on year.

Yours faithfully,
M. TOWNSEND,
Commercial Director,
Nuclear Electric Plc,
Barnet Way,
Gloucester.

This announcement appears as a matter of record only



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London Branch



January 1992

REPORTING THIS WEEK

Reuters expects to report good news

REUTERS Holdings, the international news and financial information group, of which Sir Christopher Hogg is chairman and Peter Job is chief executive, should prove that it can generate healthy profits growth despite the difficult economic environment.

Mike Styles, at Credit Lyonnais, expects final pre-tax profits, due on Wednesday, to climb to £340 million, up from £320 million last time, boosted by cost controls and product upgrades.

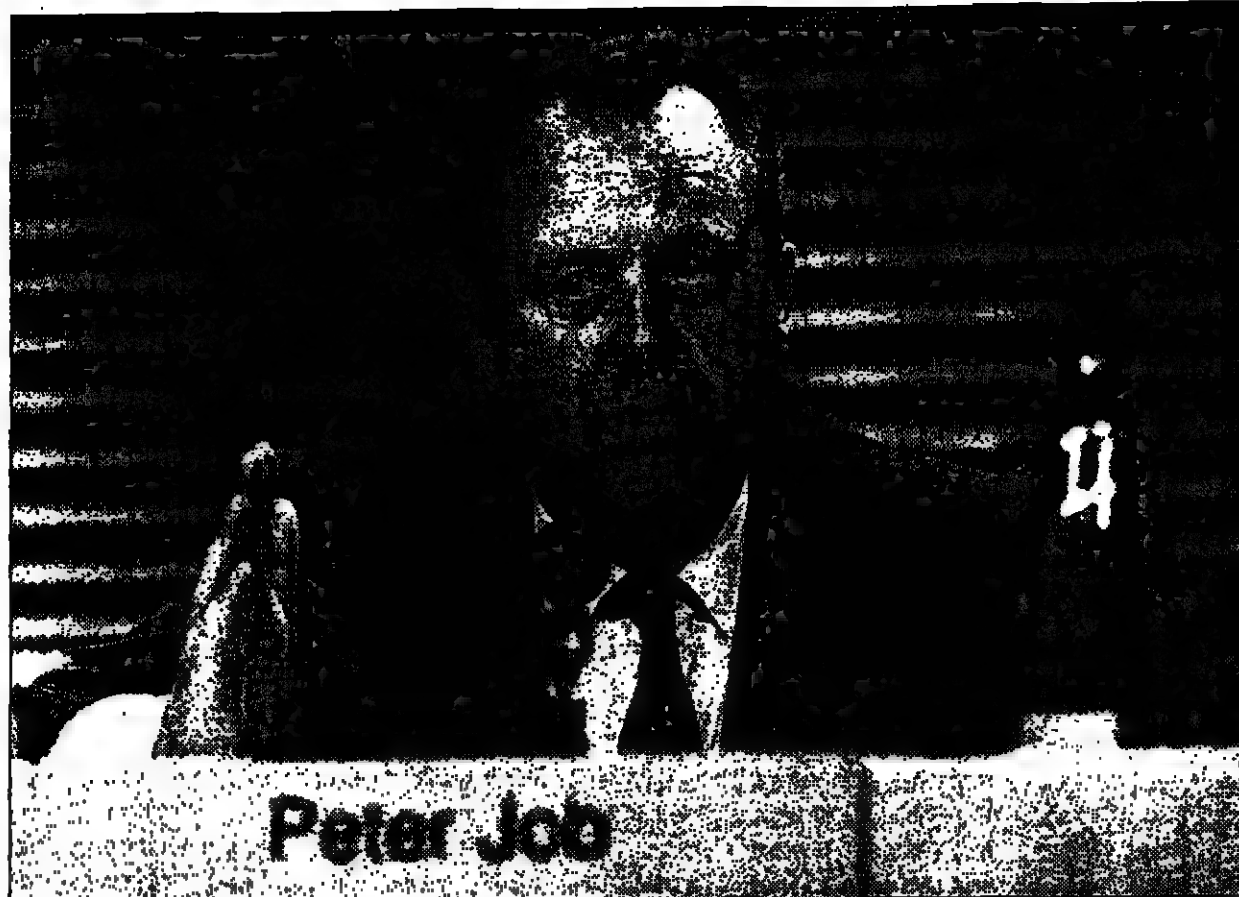
Earnings are forecast to rise to 54.4p (49.5p) per share, while a dividend of 16.5p (15p) is predicted. Market profit expectations range from £330 million to £350 million.

Long-term prospects seem bright for Reuters. The potential for Dealing 2000-2, which was undergoing live tests last month, and Globex has already been recognised, with prospects appearing to be sound. However, there is concern about the short term, during which trading is expected to be tough. In the short term, London, Switzerland and Japan have been holding back on new spend, and that's been impacting them [Reuters], Mr Styles said.

News is also awaited on the group's cash balances, which stood at £448 million at the interim stage. Estimates suggest they had shrunk to between £350 million and £370 million by last year end.

TODAY
Interim: Bailey (CH), Posters Brewing Group, Impala Platinum Holdings, US Smaller Cos., Finisar, Beldwin, ERM, Java Tel, Tottenham Hotspur, Agnès Avon Rubber, McCarthy & Stone, Tarcos Petroleum, Economic statistics: Credit business (December), retail sales (December - final).

TOMORROW
Alan Sugar, fresh from his first set of Tottenham Hotspur results on Monday, is due to address the City again, this time providing interim figures for Amstrad, his computer and electronics



Bright prospects: Peter Job, who as chief executive of Reuters Holdings reports results on Wednesday

group, for which trading remains difficult.

Amstrad, whose shares languished at 26p last Friday, against last year's high of 93p, is expected to suffer a pre-tax loss of £10 million, compared with a £40.1 million profit previously, according to UBS Phillips & Drew. Market forecasts range from losses of £2 million to £30 million. A maintained interim dividend of 0.4p is predicted.

Third-quarter results from British Airways will show a significant improvement over the previous year's figures, despite a modest 1 per cent rise in traffic levels.

County NatWest WoodMac expects significantly lower fuel costs to allow the company to show a pre-tax profit of more than £50 million in the three months to

end-December, against a loss of £7 million last time, excluding exceptional profits. Market forecasts range from £20 million to £60 million.

County says BA's third-quarter figures will also show a £150 million extraordinary profit from the sale of the engineering division to GEC. Market attention will also no doubt focus on any news of the recent negotiations, which may lead to a joint venture with KLM, and perhaps a full merger between the two airlines in the longer term.

Interim: Amstrad, British Airways (Q3), Bryant Group, Dudley Jenkins Group, Eblor, Fleming Overseas IT, FHM, Plessey, Manchester Ship Canal Co, Agnès, Baggeridge Brick, Devenish (IA).

Economic statistics: Producer price index: numbers (January - provisional), financing of the cen-

tral government borrowing requirement (fourth quarter), monetary statistics including M4: seasonal analysis, bank and building society sterling lending (fourth quarter).

WEDNESDAY
Allied Leisure, Richard Carr's ten-pin bowling and nightclub group, is expected to report interim pre-tax profits of about £1.7 million, against £1.6 million last time, according to Smith New Court.

Interim: Allied Leisure, The News Corporation, Plessey Fleming, Riedel Inv Tel, General Consolidated Inv, Moorfield Estates, Reuters Holdings, St Modwen Props, Throgmorton USM Tel.

THURSDAY
Bob Horton, the chairman of British Petroleum, is expected to unveil a poor set of final results. A weak oil price

combined with the recession, which continued to affect the group's downstream operations.

Rod Maclean, at UBS Phillips & Drew, expects fourth quarter historic cost net income to slump to £125 million (£452 million), giving £530 million (£1.68 billion) for the year. Phillips & Drew expects replacement cost net income to plunge to £110 million (£456 million), giving a more respectable £1.07 billion (£1.2 billion) for the year.

Mr Maclean pointed to weak oil prices as one of BP's key problems. He said: "Crude at the end of the day was not nearly as strong as the market expected." The average fourth quarter oil price was \$20.5 per barrel, against \$31.7 a year earlier. The average oil price in 1990

was \$23.5 per barrel, while the average price last year was \$20 per barrel.

A slight fourth quarter dividend increase to 4.4p (4.2p) is expected, for a total of 17p (16.05p). Fourth quarter net income forecasts range from £75 million to £120 million.

The overall tone from BP is likely to be pessimistic. Looking to the future, analysts will want to know the oil price assumption that BP is using, while dividend policy will again be a key issue.

First-quarter pre-tax profits at BOC, the industrial gases and healthcare group, are expected to rise to £75 million (£70.8 million), according to Hoare Govett. Market forecasts range from £73 million to £78 million. Profits growth in the gases division should approach 10 per cent. BOC will benefit from growth in the Far East and higher margins from the American merchant market.

Analysts expect first-quarter pre-tax profits at Hanson, the industrial conglomerate, to slip to between £205 million and £220 million (£240 million).

Interim: BOC Group (Q1), GT Venture Invest Co, Hanson (Q1), North American Gas Inv, Plessey, British Petroleum Co (Q4), Crest Nicholson, Trust of Property Shares, Yeoman Inv Tel, Agnès Aberforth (smaller cos), Fishguard & Rossiers, Tomlinsons, Watson & Philip, Westland Grp.

FRIDAY
Economic statistics: Labour market statistics: Unemployment and unfilled vacancies (January - provisional); average earnings index (December - provisional); employment, hours, productivity and unit wage cost; industrial production (January); capital expenditure by the manufacturing industries (fourth quarter - provisional).

Interim: Anglo & Overseas Trust, Plessey, None announced, Plessey, Control Techniques, Lee (Arthur) & Sons, Radio Clyde Holdings. Economic statistics: Usable steel production (January), index of output of the production industries (December), retail prices index and tax and price index (January).

PHILIP PANGALOS

Devaluation on the agenda whoever wins

By the end of this year the British economy will have to cope with an unsustainable exchange rate and a continuing balance of payments constraint. It will be almost like the Sixties. Regardless of who wins the election, devaluation will be back on the agenda.

Gifts are now benefiting from the continued recession, falling inflation and sterling's stability. Talk of recovery still seems premature, despite the recent increase in personal sector savings. The overhang of debt, the stagnant housing market, an uncertain election outcome and poor employment prospects all suggest continued weakness. If demand remains weak, the corporate sector will continue to retrench with de-stocking, labour shedding and cutbacks in investment.

These factors point to a further improvement in both the headline and underlying rate of inflation. This will become more evident by the summer, when lower wage settlements, now being agreed, will be reflected in the average earnings data. Although the service sector may be isolated from the anti-inflationary discipline of the ERM, the weakness of the economy should prevent a resurgence of service sector inflation this year.

The key factor for gifts, though, is sterling. As last week's reserve figures showed, the currency has not needed sizeable intervention to maintain ERM stability. Despite the imminent election, the commitment of all three main parties to the ERM appears to have reduced sterling's risk premium. This has led international investors to view gifts favourably. Indeed, the spread of ten-year gilts over Bunds appears attractive, at 144 basis points, the comparable spread for French and Dutch bonds is 88 and 105 basis points respectively.

The international environment is attractive for the low bonds. The continuing recession in America and the sharp downturn in Japan will lead the American and Japanese authorities to lower rates again, allowing bond markets there to rally. Although the Bundesbank will keep policy tight, this will highlight the attraction of high real yields on European bond markets. The irony is that while it is sterling's commitment to the ERM that will allow gilts to benefit from any European bond market rally, and thus overcome supply and political worries; it is the very same commitment that could store up problems later in

1992. By then, German rates should be falling but the scope for lower British base rates will be limited. Lower rates could prompt a recovery in consumption, leading to a surge in imports and a deterioration in the current account.

The gilt market would be foolish to ignore the implications of Britain's trade position. It implies either a sizeable devaluation of sterling or - if devaluation is prevented by ERM - policy will have to be tightened to curb domestic demand growth. This suggests that British real interest rates will have to remain at high levels if the economy is to adjust to ERM membership.

This points to extremely weak British growth for some time, leading to rising unemployment, continued bankruptcies and a further squeeze on the manufacturing trade sector. Despite the talk of the need to establish credibility in the ERM, the implications of the domestic economy of this high and overvalued exchange rate may lead the gilt market to talk openly of devaluation.

A re-elected Conservative government will probably decide to accept this trade-off for squeezing inflation. It would also allow the government to get the economic and political cycle back into a growth phase. Many of the government's present problems stem from Nigel Lawson's expansion after the last election and it will be keen to avoid a similar mistake. Although a Labour government might raise interest rates temporarily to gain market credibility, the benefits to capacity and competitiveness are clear but the inflation worries associated with devaluation are overdue, particularly in the present international deflationary environment.

In fact, it can be argued that the loss of capacity as a result of sterling's overvaluation will lead to supply bottlenecks and reflation once demand recovers. While gilts are now very attractive, by year-end things could be dramatically different. Then, sentiment may again be driven by the monthly trade figures and the potential currency risk.

GERARD LYONS
DKB International

Greece moves to carve out new international roles

By Philip Pangalos



Samaras: scene setting

GREECE will today launch an initiative in Athens to highlight the country's economic, political and environmental role among the countries of Europe, the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

Today's conference, to be introduced by Antonis Samaras, the Greek foreign affairs minister, will set the scene for an international economic summit to be hosted by the Greeks in Athens this April.

The April meeting, ambitiously entitled "Europe and the Mediterranean in the New World Order", aims to set out the basis for economic, political and environmental issues which will govern the region's development. It will look at the problems associated with integrating eastern European economies which, however liberalised, are likely to widen the regional disparities within the single European market.

A string of high profile dignitaries, including Ioannis Paliokrassas, finance minister, and Andreas Andrianopoulos, trade and industry minister, will throw their weight behind today's initiative. Greece will try to optimise its geographic position in the fast-emerging region.

The share price reflects two factors. First, Epwin has been able to maintain its profit-to-sales ratio year on year at the interim stage after excluding a full year's provision of £200,000 set aside for product design, marketing and development. Second, there is greater liquidity in the shares since John Mayoh, a former managing director, placed his 15.2 per cent shareholding.

More than 45 per cent of Epwin's equity is now on the open market, making possible a switch from the Unlisted Securities Market to the full list when final results are announced next month.

Epwin was floated on the stock market at 159p share in April 1987, only six months before equities crashed. That heralded the slump in the property market. Jim Rawson, the chairman, maintains that it is unfair for Epwin to suffer a low rating because of the building sector's problems. The company's exposure to the new homes market is minimal,

Epwin builds in shareholder value

SHARES in Epwin Group have risen from 105p a year ago to 172p. That is quite an achievement for a manufacturer of UPVC windows and doors that is operating in a severely depressed home improvement market and that reported interim taxable profits of 38 per cent down (Martin Barrow writes).

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and much of its work is with local authorities and the Property Services Agency, which looks after government buildings.

Epwin's resilience in a difficult market owes much to its broad business structure. It is vertically integrated, with three manufacturing divisions - UPVC extrusion, glass processing and windows - and at the trading level has commercial, trade and retail divisions.

It also hopes to gain a larger share of the new-build market with a range of windows designed to overcome builders' reluctance to use UPVC for original fittings. These have a stainless steel substrate that is installed during building, and the plastic frame itself, which clips into place afterwards.



Rawson: rating worry

Macarthy issues loan notes warning

By Martin Barrow

MACARTHY, the pharmaceuticals group, has warned shareholders that financial problems at NV Medico-pharma may jeopardize the repayment by the Dutch company of convertible loan notes worth £2.86 million.

A default would represent a major setback for Macarthy, whose gearing is currently estimated at more than 100 per cent, and could discourage Lloyds Chemists and UniChem from rebidding for the company even if clearance is forthcoming from the monopolies commission.

The loan notes were issued by Medico-pharma in August 1990 in part payment for Macarthy's British pharmaceutical wholesaling business, for which Macarthy received an initial £13 million in cash.

However, Medico-pharma's fortunes have taken a turn for the worse since the deal was struck, resulting in the company's withdrawal from Britain in early November. Later in the same month, a German bid to take control of Medico-pharma was called off and the company was obliged to seek a moratorium in the Dutch courts suspending payments to creditors.

Macarthy warned that as a result "there could be some uncertainty as to timing and amount of repayment" by Medico-pharma of the loan notes. Macarthy's annual report for 1991 stated there had been no indication as to when or on what basis the moratorium will be lifted.

Macarthy's annual results, showing pre-tax profits up 15 per cent to £5.31 million, were warmly received by analysts in January, but alarm bells rang about borrowing levels. Although gearing was stated at 60 per cent at the year-end, the company has since paid almost £3.3 million to financial advisers acting in the defence against bids from Lloyds, UniChem and Gramplan Holdings. A further £1.38 million will be absorbed by the payment of a final dividend of 5p a share, reduced from 7p.

The monopolies commission delivered its report on the bids by Lloyds and UniChem on January 20 and it is currently with Peter Lilley, the trade secretary. Gramplan's offer was not referred by the Office of Fair Trading but was rejected by shareholders. Macarthy shares closed last week at 289p.

US defaults offer timely warning

IF INVESTORS in the American bond market thought they were in for an easier year in 1992, a report from Moody's, the leading rating agency, will have brought them swiftly back down to earth.

Corporate Bond Defaults and Default Rates 1970-1991 predicts that rates of default for speculative grade issuers will remain at the historically high rate of 8.3 per cent this year.

This prediction follows a traumatic 1991 when no fewer than 94 issuers defaulted on \$20.3 billion of debt, giving a default rate of 9.5 per cent, compared with 8.8 per cent in 1990 and 5.8 per cent in 1989. Over that three-year period, 260 issuers defaulted on public debt obligations, approximately the same as the total figure for the entire 1970-88 period.

And just to prove that Moody's does earn its fees, the agency points out that of the 75 defaulters it rated last year, all but

one was rated the relatively high risk speculative grade.

Not surprisingly, the biggest default last year came from the American financial services industry. Executive Life Insurance Company, the holding company for First Executive Companies of California and New York defaulted on \$1.85 billion of public debt and several billions of dollars worth of policies. Other large defaulters that year included Columbia Gas Systems (\$1.34 billion), Trans World Airlines (\$947 million), Bank of New England (\$914 million) and two spin-outs from leveraged buyouts (\$1.24 billion and \$999 million).

The biggest single defaulting sector, however, was retail, with \$3.7 billion or 18.2 per cent of the total, followed by financial services (\$3.3 billion or 16.4 per cent).

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Lamont seeks Euro reshape for RPI

By Colin Narebrough, Economics Correspondent

THE advisory committee on the government's main measure of inflation, the retail price index, has been given the task of bringing the index closer into line with consumer price gauges in other European Community countries, which exclude mortgage interest payments.

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, has ostensibly recalled the committee to consider the implications of the switch next year from poll tax to council tax.

He said it would also review progress on implementing the committee's previous recommendation for the inclusion of holiday expenditure in the RPI, as well as review the treatment of new cars in the index.

Government experts have run into difficulty in trying to include holiday costs, as expenditure on foreign holidays cannot form part of domestic prices. New car prices are also difficult, as manufacturers frequently alter specifications at the same time as price changes are made.

The inclusion of mortgage interest payments in the RPI has long been contentious because it exaggerates short-term swings in retail prices. However, previous attempts to change the make-up of the index have failed, mainly because mortgage interest forms one of the principal items in the budgets of a high proportion of households.

The mortgage argument has been highlighted in recent months, with successive falls in mortgage rates leaving retail price inflation below the average underlying rate of inflation of prices of goods and services.

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See BES special report on page 23

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England
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MILTON KEYNES

Investors settle where there is a homely welcome

Property-linked Business Expansion Scheme (BES) funds have been booming since BES rules were changed four years ago to promote growth in rented accommodation. Now change is in the air, possibly with some modifications coming in as early as next month's Budget and with the dispensation on property-linked funds due to end in December 1993.

There has been increasing speculation that the Chancellor may tighten up the rules on the assured growth property schemes although the main beneficiaries have been housing associations and academic institutions providing student accommodation.

If Labour forms the next government it plans to drop BES and bring in a new system to encourage manufacturing businesses. That recalls the aims of BES when it was introduced in 1983 as the successor to the Business Start-up Scheme.

BES was intended to encourage private investors to invest in small and growing businesses by offering tax incentives. The result was £660 million raised between 1983 and 1988, when the BES rules were altered to allow all of a company's assets to be in residential property provided it was let under assured tenancies.

Property companies, with their strong asset backing, drew investors away from what seemed to be much riskier prospects among trading companies in manufacturing or the service industries. The property funds could also raise up to £5 million when the trading companies had an imposed ceiling of £500,000, later raised to £750,000.

In the year of the change £192 million of £345 million invested through BES — rather more than 55 per cent — flowed into the assured tenancy companies. Today more than 90 per cent of BES

Property attracts the lion's share of BES money, explains Derek Harris

Investment is going into property-related funds.

The subsequent emergence of virtually guaranteed returns to investors has increased the lure of the property-based funds.

Innovation is continuing. One of the more prolific providers of homes using the schemes, the Airways Housing Society, is introducing the first BES-based shared ownership scheme. Part of a property is owned by BES investors, on which the tenant pays rent, while the tenant owns the other portion, initially about 25 per cent.

The Airways Housing Society was once the staff housing society for British Airways and although it has close working links with BA it is now an independent entity. It is among the biggest in its field, with more than £22 million raised through BES.

The society manages or provides services to more than 3,000 residential properties and has assets of more than £100 million. The aim of the shared ownership scheme has been to provide starter homes for BA staff. It brings a new home within reach of those on the lower pay scales who cannot afford to buy outright the sort of property they need, typically a two-bedroom house.

Simon Tattersfield, the society's chief executive, says: "So far we are the only ones to get such a scheme off the ground. There were a lot of technical problems, which we have now solved. No doubt others will follow in our footsteps."

The innovative scheme has involved two small estates with 23 properties at Sunbury-on-Thames and West Drayton, both near Heathrow airport. Initially, £2 million was raised through a BES and earlier this month there was a fresh offer intended to raise another £3 million. This will enable the shared ownership scheme to grow to 60 or so properties.

The first tenant to move into the new properties was Claire Burley, a BA job training supervisor. She says: "We had been looking for a home for some time but the prices were always just out of our reach. This has given us a home with a garden and garage. It is our dream come true."

There is no question about the size of demand for shared ownership, Mr Tattersfield believes. In its non-BES activities the society already has 440 homes let under shared ownership arrangements. One non-BES shared ownership home went to Bob Ratcliffe, the society's chairman, who has worked for BA for 26 years.

Investors leave the scheme through the tenant buying the balance of the property at the end of the agreed term. How much that raises will depend on the value of the property then. Mr Tattersfield argues that with house prices possibly at their lowest the likely growth in values over the next five years



Hearth and home: Bob Ratcliffe with Claire Burley at her house in Sunbury-on-Thames, Surrey

could mean better returns for investors from this scheme than from many other BES property offers.

In another initiative the society has set up a joint venture with Royal Berkshire County Council. BES is being used to raise £5 million to build two estates of housing for frail elderly people. Half the residents will be nominated by the council and the rest by the society.

The developments, providing a total of 59 flats and care

staff facilities, are at Windsor and Reading on county council owned land. Deposit guarantees for the schemes are £2.8 million from the society and £1.25 million from the council, backing a guaranteed buy-back return of 140p per £1 share.

There has also been a rush of funds to seize the opportunities presented by thousands of repossessed homes coming on to the market. Some have been bought at auction and others from builders and developers

selling multi-home schemes at knock-down prices.

Auctioneer, a fund offered by solicitors Neill Clerk, is using a national network of estate agents to find bargains. Johnson Fry, a big BES specialist, is sponsoring more than one fund based on repossessions and has just got clearance from the Inland Revenue for one under which the Pugin Housing Association will acquire homes from people with heavy mortgages who

are under threat but whose homes have not yet been repossessed. That allows the owner to become a tenant with manageable outgoings with the option of buying it back after five years.

Charles Fry, the chairman of Johnson Fry, says: "The funds tackle housing problems. If the government came in with a guarantee scheme for buy-back prices, BES could be used much more widely to ease the repossession difficulties."

Ticket for distant returns

MORE than £1.5 billion has been invested through the Business Expansion Scheme (BES) since its 1983 start, drawn from 97,000 investors and placed in about 1,450 companies.

Trading companies from a wide area of industry and commerce have been backed in this way. Companies set up to build commercial ships have been BES funded. So have property schemes involving longer-term assured tenancies.

Shares issued under BES rules by such concerns cannot be offered on stock markets for at least three years so it is not easy to assess their value.

This is part of the risk of BES investment, which is acknowledged in the tax incentives offered to the individual investor.

There is a minimum investment of £500 for the individual, who can invest up to £40,000 in any one year and set it against his or her tax liabilities. Those on the top rate of tax benefit the most.

Moreover, if the shares are not sold for five years or more, there will be no liability for capital gains tax.

Most services qualify for BES schemes but there are exceptions such as legal and accountancy services and leasing.

BES offers can be in the form of prospectuses from companies, through a BES-managed fund (which may have a sponsor) or through a private placing with friends or colleagues.

The watchdog for those operating in the industry, including fund managers and sponsors, is the BES Association, which operates a code of conduct binding on its members.

DEREK HARRIS

A trade in the smaller fry

Investment funds reach small trading companies with big plans

The amount of cash generated by Business Expansion Schemes (BES) and invested in individual trading companies, from smaller manufacturers to those in service industries, represents at most 5 per cent of all BES activity, Derek Harris writes.

Of £265 million raised through BES public share offers in the financial year to last April, only £12 million was for trading companies, the lowest sum ever. Of that sum, £2.7 million was accounted for by companies formed to finance commercial shipping.

In the previous couple of years the proportion going to trading companies had exceeded 10 per cent. More investment cash was diverted to the property-related funds because of stronger guarantees yet offered for growth.

Yet BES can bring expansion to companies which

might otherwise be unobtainable, as some of the earlier BES beneficiaries are still showing.

When BES was introduced in April 1983, Robert Feld was in what he calls the "ma and pa" end of the hotel business, running family establishments. Now he is managing director of Brighton-based Resort Hotels, capitalised at £63 million and quoted on the stock market.

BES made it possible for Resort Hotels to acquire and build a chain of hotels around the country.

Mr Feld, who has been in the business for more than 20 years, started with two hotels. Adopting the BES technique meant ownership of subse-

quently acquired properties rested with the investors, at least until the BES matured after five years. Meanwhile a team led by Mr Feld managed the hotels in the expectation that investors would leave the scheme by exchanging their BES shares for a stake in the main company. An option was then to sell that stake in the market.

Nine years on, Resort owns 14 hotels while another 21 are passing through their BES phase at various stages of maturation. The company has a firm option to purchase 11 of them.

Mr Feld says: "BES has done well for us. We intend to expand further, using such

schemes." There have been benefits elsewhere, he points out. A thriving business has created jobs and added to national and local tax revenues.

Among the sponsors of trading company BES, as well as those in other sectors, are Capital Ventures of Cheltenham and Capital for Companies, based in Leeds and part of BWD Securities.

Capital Ventures was a pioneer in BES trading company schemes. Dennis Fredjohn, the chairman, says: "Although there were many BES candidates it was not easy to compete for funds with low-risk property businesses, even though returns from trading companies could be higher: one entrepreneur that Capital Ventures backed with £120,000 in 1982 is worth £18 million.

Mr Fredjohn says: "With trading companies there is an element of risk but it is possible to get considerably more back."

Mike Dickenson, a director of Capital for Companies, says: "We try to invest in what we see as real companies that employ people, and usually that is most likely to be in manufacturing. In our first three funds investors had a return of more than 20 per cent. That encouraged us to keep going."

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Manchester United may have to cut out the middle man

The problem is acute and

The point they collected on

Frederick R. Millard

OLDHAM ATHLETIC: J. Hallworth, B. Barrett, A. Barlow, N. Henry, R. Johnson, M. Marshall, R. Palmer, P. Bernard, G. Sharp, N. McDonald, R. Holden.

LEEDS UNITED: J. Lukic, M. Stannard (subs: M. Whitlow, A. Dorogi, D. Beatty, C. Fairclough, C. Whittle, G. Strachan, R. Wallace, G. Hodge (subs: E. Cantona), G. McAllister, G. Speed.

RESEARCH: A. Wilson.

Dug-out delight: Keegan, left, and Derek Wright, the club physiotherapist, celebrate Newcastle's first goal

Newcastle's biggest win of the season, and a clean sheet to boot, provided the proof of the pudding. It was the kind of performance to give former managers a bad name. While Keegan clearly differed from Ossie Ardiles in selection and tactics, he was not without a certain amount of sympathy for his luckless predecessor. "I don't think Ossie was a million miles away," he said. "You can see how his problems arose and I'm left to pick up the bits, but the bits aren't as bad as I thought they'd be."

The prospect of a visit to the home of Blackburn Rovers, the second division leaders, next Saturday will ensure that their feet remain firmly on the ground.

A low shot from the unattended Powell brought Portsmouth back into it, but any revival was ruled out when Awford turned Milton's cross past his own goalkeeper.

PSWICH TOWNS: C. Farness, G. Johnson, N. Thompson, M. Stockwell, J. Wark, D. Linington, S. Milton, S. Palmer, & Whilton, J. Dazzell, & K. Kwamye.

PORTSMOUTH: A. Knight, A. Axford, J. Bessford, D. Power, K. Symons, & Summers (sub: C. Clarke), W. Noll (sub: J. Hendon), M. Kutz, D. Wingham, C. Burns, & Anderson. Referee: V. Cullow.

The possible rescue is given news for the Aldershot faithful, several hundred of whom staged an emotional show of support after the 1-1 home draw with Walsall on Monday.

[illegible]

FORECAST: Dividends will be very good with a possible jackpot. Eight score-draws and seven no-score-draws. Claims required for 23 and 24 points.

France sets standard for Games openings

SELDOM if ever has there been such grandeur as in the opening ceremony of the XVI Winter Games on a starlit, memorable evening here in Albertville. France has set a standard for all future Games in elegance, artistry and emotion.

As François-Cyrille Grange, an eight-year-old schoolboy, stood hand in hand with Michel Platini, symbol of the spirit of French sport — the pair of them silhouetted on the tip of the stadium against dark, snow-clad peaks catching

the last faint pink of the dying sunset — man and nature were in harmony.

The home of Baron Pierre de Coubertin retains in its approach to sport that sense of glory that is so distinctive, in success or failure.

I have never been as moved on such an occasion, as on this evening of colour and costume, art and acrobatics, music and mime. It was unfortunate that, for the English-speaking world, the tips on the march past were introduced with banal rhyming couplets reminis-

cent either of children's pantomime or of summer holiday camp bonhomie.

Fighter jets twice roared overhead, leaving a trail in coloured smoke of the Olympic rings.

There were sensitive, special cheers during the march past for the nations emerging out of Europe's former configurations: for Estonia, in their steel-blue uniforms, for Croatia, Slovenia and the rest, and for the United

Team of the republics of the former USSR. There was a warm welcome for the lone competitor of Swaziland, Keith Fraser, who was born in Ayr.

The words of Jean-Claude Killy rang out across the freezing night air to a crowd of 30,000 and the worldwide television audience: "Some 2,200 athletes, some of whom are bearing the flags of newly-independent nations represented at the Olympics for the first time... will lead us into the realm of fantastic feats." As

François Mitterrand, the president of France, spoke his brief words to formally open the Games, Alpine horns and church bells echoed through the valleys. Soldiers raised the Olympic flag and a sea of upturned silent faces signified the common aspirations among those brought together by the Games. Totally unheralded, Platini appeared with the flame, ran one lap, then joined little François-Cyrille, and the two of them mounted the 80 steps to ignite that flame of hope. Severine du

Pelloux, a Savoie girl, hauntingly sang the Marseillaise. Then came the Folies. Men on monster stilts, dancers, jugglers, ballet skaters. Acrobats bearing out a rhythm for trampolinists, and four magical acrobats suspended from a huge central mast on sponge ropes.

Stunnet dancers on revolving platforms piroqueted in glacial elegance, arias filled the air, and a thousand flags arrived like a snowfall. There was honour for France on this opening day.

FOOTBALL

Juventus hold on to deny Milan's irresistible force

BY PETER ROBINSON

THE irresistible force met the immovable object in the San Siro stadium yesterday: AC Milan, Serie A leaders and the most exhilarating attacking team in Italy, met Juventus, their only serious rivals to a league championship crown and the most obdurate defensive unit in the country. The result was a stalemate — a fascinating, fierce, passionate but perhaps all too predictable 1-1 draw. If nothing else, though, it kept interest in the Italian league alive for a little while longer this season.

Had Milan won, they would have opened a seven-point lead at the top of the division and turned Europe's richest, most challenging and most powerful championship into a procession. Their destiny remains in their own hands, but Juventus can at least hope that they can take advantage if the Milanese slip up in the near future.

Those hopes looked perilously slim after five minutes of yesterday's game. Milan began at a furious pace, putting immediate pressure on the visitors and taking the lead through Marco van Basten. A strange, uncharacteristic lapse at the back allowed the Dutchman to slip his marker, meet Alberigo Evani's cross and score his seventeenth goal of the season.

Yet Juventus, at times fortunately, survived, and equalised through Pier Luigi Casiraghi in the 27th minute. From that point, the balance of power shifted and it was Juve who ended the game on the ascendant, Milan having to work hard to stay on level terms.

Napoli, in third place, have now set their sights on a place in Europe, but those will have not been helped by a 2-1 by Parma, Georges Grun settling the issue in the last minute. There were disappointing displays, too, from

Sampdoria, held to a 1-1 draw in Genoa by lowly Bari, and Internazionale, who lost 1-0 in Verona.

The shadow of the Stasi, the former East German secret police, may have dominated the headlines in recent weeks in the Bundesliga as former players, notably Torsten Friesen, were alleged to have spied on their teammates, but attention can now at last switch back to the pitch. The Germans have emerged from their winter break to complete one of the most intriguing title races of recent years.

The decline of Bayern Munich has allowed a posse of other clubs to challenge for the championship, with Borussia Dortmund the most prominent. A 1-1 draw at Fortuna Düsseldorf kept them on top of the table, with Eintracht Frankfurt close behind. Eintracht drew 1-1 with VfL Bochum, while Bayern, though they are floundering in mid-table, still attracted a 70,000 crowd when they travelled to Schalke 04. Yet again, the game ended in a 1-1 draw, Mihajlovic snatching a point for Schalke with three minutes to go.

Ajax may be trailing PSV Eindhoven in the Dutch league, but they have enjoyed the better of the two clubs' encounters so far, and they did so again yesterday, knocking PSV out of the Dutch Cup with a 2-1 victory in Amsterdam. John van Loen scored the winner in extra-time.

A mistake by the goalkeeper, Pascal Olmeta, gifted Sochaux a late equaliser and cost the French champions, Marseille, a home point at the Stade Velodrome yesterday. With three minutes remaining, Olmeta dropped the ball to allow Mickael Madar to equalise in an unexpected 2-2 draw.

Relaxed approach bodes well for skater

Conway steers clear of the limelight to hone programme

FROM JOHN HENNESSY IN ALBERTVILLE

BY NOW, Joanne Conway, a six-times British skating champion, is back in North Shields, familiar ice under her blades but Albertville still very much on her mind (John Hennessy writes).

She has chosen, sensibly, to distance herself from the Olympic hurly-burly, after appearing briefly for the opening ceremony — "Couldn't miss that" — and will not return until next Sunday, three days before she is called to do her original programme.

Having abandoned a demanding choreography set for her by Christopher Dean, she seems notably more relaxed and certainly more comfortable on the ice. She is even thinking wishfully of a medal here signing off yesterday with an encouraging run-through of her original



is not allowed in the original. The change of strategy has led to no rift between Conway and Dean. "Chris agreed with me," she said, "that his steps made it too difficult for me to do the triple jumps. I'd just love to see someone else having a go at a programme like that."

By contrast, Steven Cousins, also British champion, has added more substance to his original programme. The men are allowed two triple jumps in combination and, after the European championships in Lausanne had revealed that the triple lutz to double toe loop was inadequate, he and his trainer, Alex McGowan, decided on two triple toe loops. The lutz appears elsewhere as a replacement for the triple flip.

The triple axel is a notable omission these days but, at 19, Cousins has plenty of time on his side.

Meanwhile, in women's speed skating yesterday, the world champion, Gunda Niemann, won the women's 3,000 metres race to give the German team their first gold medal of the Olympics.

Niemann, tipped to sweep the board in the three distance events, stormed home almost three seconds ahead of her compatriot and training partner, Heike Warnicke. Ernes Hunyadi, of Austria, took the bronze medal.

The Germans are fielding their first unified team since 1964.

Schneider's priorities

Meribel — The double Olympic champion, Vreni Schneider, is not afraid to admit to suffering fear. "Yes, I'm scared. There's nothing to be ashamed of," the Swiss woman said after pulling out of next Wednesday's combined downhill after falling. "You can't race downhill if you are worried about falling and I have too much at stake to risk hurting myself," she

added. Schneider, aged 27, who lost her lead in the women's World Cup to Austria's Petra Kronberger earlier this month, has a far bigger double date next week. Then she will try to become the first skier, man or woman, to win back-to-back Olympic titles in two events, when she defends her titles in the giant slalom and special slalom events.



Slide to success: Gunda Niemann, of Germany, on the way to winning the German team its first medal in the women's 3,000 metres speed skating

Hackl leading over night

La Plagne: Georg Hackl, the twice world luge champion from Germany, goes into today's final two runs in the men's singles as the overnight leader and favourite for the gold medal (Chris Moore writes).

Hackl, aged 25, an army sergeant, who won the silver medal in Calgary four years ago, set a track record with the day's fastest time of 45.19sec on his opening run, and though only third fastest on the second descent, leads by 0.11sec from Markus Schmidt, of Austria.

Another Austrian, Markus Prock, the winner of this year's World Cup, is in third

place, only 0.02sec behind. Nick Overt, of Britain, was lying in 21st place out of a field of 34, having set personal best times on both yesterday's runs. If he continues improving today, he could just squeeze into the top 20.

His team-mate, Ian Whithead, is almost a second behind in 27th place.

Les Saisies: Lyubov Egorova, a freestyle expert from St Petersburg, showed her versatility by winning the women's 15-kilometre classic-style cross-country race — the first medal of the Games. Egorova, aged 26, the reigning world 30-kilometre freestyle champion, led the

race from start to finish and beat Marjut Lukkarinen, of Finland, by 1min 09.1sec.

"Tough course, it was very hard at the end," Egorova said after the race, which had a total climb of 564 metres and was held at an altitude of 1,600 metres. "But what a good day, such a good day!"

Egorova covered the race, held for the first time in the Olympics, in 42min 20.8sec. She posted the fastest split time after the 1.9-kilometre mark and also had the fastest time at halfway. Lukkarinen prevented a one-two for the Unified Team, finishing 12.4sec ahead of Elena Valbe.

ALPINE SKIING

MEN'S DOWNHILL

(Val d'Isère)

1988 winner: P. Zurborg (Switz)

1. P. Ortlieb (Austria), 1min 50.37sec; 2. F. Piccard (Fr), 1:50.42; 3. G. Luder (Austria), 1:50.47; 4. M. Wiesner (Austria), 1:50.52; 5. J. Thoenen (Austria), 1:50.57; 6. F. Henzler (Switz), 1:51.00; 7. P. Lüscher (Ger), 1:51.49; 8. A. Nansen (Nor), 1:51.53; 9. A. Frit (US), 1:51.58; 10. P. Tschanner (Ger), 1:51.59; 11. K. Ghedini (It), 1:52.22; 12. A. Alphonse (Fr), 1:52.34; 13. D. Mahler (Switz), 1:52.39; 14. D. Mennin (Fr), 1:52.46; 15. V. Gaudenzi (Switz), 1:52.50; 16. B. Schall (Austria), 1:52.53; 17. R. Duncan (Brit), 1:52.55; 18. G. Bell, 1:52.56; 19. M. Schmid (Austria), 1:52.57; 20. M. Schmid (Austria), 1:52.58; 21. M. Schmid (Austria), 1:52.59; 22. M. Schmid (Austria), 1:52.60; 23. M. Schmid (Austria), 1:52.61; 24. M. Schmid (Austria), 1:52.62; 25. M. Schmid (Austria), 1:52.63; 26. M. Schmid (Austria), 1:52.64; 27. M. Schmid (Austria), 1:52.65; 28. M. Schmid (Austria), 1:52.66; 29. M. Schmid (Austria), 1:52.67; 30. M. Schmid (Austria), 1:52.68; 31. M. 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POLITICS
Therese
Lawson on
politicians and
the press



LIFE & TIMES

MONDAY FEBRUARY 10 1992



EDUCATION
Half marks
for Clarke's
teacher
training plans

Richard
back to
do a job
in Paris

Madonna in bloom again

The masterpiece *Madonna with the Pinks* languished in an English castle until restoration revealed its authenticity. Now, argues Richard Cork, it overshadows its model by Leonardo

Now that virtually all the finest Italian Renaissance paintings belong to museums, the discovery of an exquisite Raphael in the Duke of Northumberland's collection at Alnwick Castle seems little short of miraculous. Newly cleaned and restored, the *Madonna with the Pinks* goes on display in a special loan exhibition at the National Gallery on Wednesday. Raphael can be a rather intimidating artist. But this superbly preserved little picture shows the young artist in his most direct, lively and captivating mood.

Why, then, was the *Madonna with the Pinks* regarded as nothing more than a copy of the lost original? The mystery becomes even more puzzling when the picture's history is examined. For at the time of its purchase by Algernon, the fourth Duke of Northumberland in 1853, the painting was widely admired as authentic. Connoisseurs who examined it in the Camuccini collection, one of the sights of Rome, agreed that the picture was the "glory" of all the paintings acquired by the copyist and dealer Pietro Camuccini with his younger brother, Vincenzo, a prominent neo-classical painter whose passion for Raphael had led him to exhume the artist's bones in 1833.

The duke bought all 74 pictures in their collection for £27,589, excluding the bribes needed to finesse its export. According to a list still preserved at Alnwick Castle, the Raphael was valued at £2,500 — appreciably more than any other painting in a collection which also included important canvases by Bellini, Claude and Guercino. More than a dozen copies of the *Madonna with the Pinks*, produced after Raphael's death, testify to the esteem it enjoyed. And when the distinguished German scholar Gustav Waagen visited Alnwick in 1854, he had no hesitation in saying of the Raphael that, "of all the numerous specimens of the picture I have seen, none appear to me so well entitled to be attributed to his hand as this".

Only a few years later, though, a far less enthusiastic verdict was delivered by J.D. Passavant, who published a catalogue of Raphael's work. He was not prepared to state that the picture was anything more than "school of Raphael", and criticised its unpleasant retouchings. Although Passavant had not examined the painting at Alnwick, relying instead on reports of its condition, his opinion proved damagingly influential.

With true aristocratic obstinacy,

the duke refused to be disheartened by the shocking demotion of his prize. He enclosed the *Madonna with the Pinks* in a specially designed and carved gilt frame, which blended with the resplendent Renaissance-style interiors he had commissioned for the castle. For a while, at least, the disputed Raphael enjoyed a privileged place in the duchess's private sitting room, along with other small devotional images from the Camuccini collection. But the scholars who examined it there echoed Passavant's reservations,

landmark in Venetian art which should never have been allowed to leave this country, ended up in the Washington National Gallery of Art, and Guercino's *Ester before Ahasuerus* was sold to the University of Michigan Museum of Art.

If the Raphael had been deemed an original, it would by now doubtless belong to an American collection as well. But the painting was left to languish undisturbed, until Nicholas Penny visited Alnwick last spring. As the Clere curator of Renaissance painting at the National Gallery, he had gone there to look at some other Italian paintings in the collection. Passing through the corridor, he found that the *Madonna with the Pinks* had become discoloured with dirt and old varnish. Although Raphael's name was still prominently displayed on the Victorian frame, the painting had been neglected and its attractiveness impaired by a vertical split in the centre of the panel's lower half. Since the crack travelled across two sensitive areas of the composition, containing the Virgin's right hand and Christ's outstretched leg, the damage was impossible to ignore.

Penny, however, was excited by the picture and felt convinced that further examination would yield surprises. In 1983 he had published an authoritative book on Raphael with Roger Jones, and his close knowledge of the artist now bore spectacular fruit. In August, the Duke of Northumberland agreed to let the painting travel to the National Gallery for further investigation. Penny's excitement grew even more intense when he found that "the subtlety and assurance of the modelling, and the delicacy and solidity of the handling, qualities difficult to discern when the painting hung in Alnwick, became more apparent in the conservation studio".

The long-derided picture must, he concluded, be Raphael's original. Subsequent probing by X-radiography and, above all, infrared reflectography, confirmed Penny's verdict, disclosing beneath the paint layers a freely handled underdrawing which is remarkably similar to Raphael's drawings on paper. The cleaning undertaken by Herbert Lank, in October and November last year, further revealed the consummate quality and exceptional condition of an enchanting addition to Raphael's surviving oeuvre.

This outstandingly fresh and animated painting was executed between 1507 and 1508, when the artist was still in his mid-twenties. Raphael had been based



Raphael: the balance between the tilting, beefy infant and his mother is rectified in the rediscovered masterpiece, the Alnwick Madonna

in Florence since 1504, learning so quickly from the work of Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo that he soon became regarded as their equal. His fame centred on a tirelessly inventive series of Madonna and child compositions, and the Alnwick panel is among the most vivacious of these perennially popular pictures. Holding a bunch of carnations (or pinks) in her left hand, the Virgin presents one of them to her son. And he stretches out both hands to grasp the flower.

The very opposite of rigid or aloof, this beguiling image shows how Raphael humanised the relationship between Madonna and infant. Their attention focuses on the carnation, a symbol not only of true love but of healing and divine protection. The smallness of the panel, which measures only 19cm by 23cm, accentuates the pair's intimacy. A folded curtain emphasises domesticity, while the window opens onto a seductive Tuscan landscape.

Throughout his precocious youth Raphael had thrived on his ability to vie with older artists. He

took as his starting-point Leonardo's celebrated *Benois Madonna*, painted around 30 years before. Here the Virgin and child are likewise caught up in the beauty of a flower. Leonardo's infant is beefier in build, however. He seems uncomfortably large compared with the slightness of his young companion, and Raphael rectifies this imbalance. The mother in *Madonna with the Pinks* is a more substantial presence, even though her femininity is enhanced by the gracefulness of her transparent veil.

The child, whose sprightly hair compares favourably with the dome-like baldness of Leonardo's infant, seems smaller in relation to the Virgin. He also looks more stable than the tilting infant in the *Benois Madonna*, for Raphael has given him an ample white cushion which he occupies with a satisfying sense of well-being.

Even as Raphael pays homage to Leonardo's precedent, he offers his own impeccably judged corrective. No wonder he was summoned to Rome by Pope Julius II soon after the completion of the

Alnwick picture. Raphael had already displayed exceptional talents, and the astonishing re-emergence of the *Madonna with the Pinks* allows us to savour his mastery at its irresistible best.

● Raphael's painting is on view at the National Gallery (071-839 3321) from Wednesday to March 29.

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SCHOOL FEES

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Go on, tip somebody a wink today

With its usual plain-spoken nonconformist tidiness, the Consumers Association wants to abolish service charges. But even they dare not go to the extreme and condemn tipping. Consumers, admits the report, need "the option to tip in appreciation of exceptional service".

And never mind their needs: think about the waiter's. It is unfortunate that all the arguments about tipping seem to come from customers. We rarely hear from those who rake in the gratuities, possibly because none of them are journalists. Nobody tips journalists. More's the pity: it would lighten one's day considerably if a grateful editor were to wink lasciviously and tuck a tenner down one's cleavage.

In the old free-spending days, of course, some travelling journalists used to take the responsibility of tipping themselves, noting the sum down on the expenses as "Sundries" or "Hire of camel"; but it can never have been the same. A tip is a joyful bonus, a filip, a small adventure. I have been a waitress and a barmaid and a tourist guide, and I know about these things.

Of course, what I say is heresy to the politically correct modern

liberal. As a well-organised wage slave himself he considers tipping to be awfully demeaning and embarrassing. He goes through agonies of fear that he is patronising the waiter or taxi-driver. He gives to charity and campaigns for national minimum wages and wants to pay more tax, but he frets terribly about the random, personal, unstructured world of tipping.

People who do it openly and handsomely and with a conspiratorial wink are of quite a different type: business buccaneers, rascals, wide boys. The message they convey, as you tuck their fiver into your apron pocket with an answering grin, is: "I've had a bit of luck today, now here's yours." The worried liberal, meanwhile, is sorting through his change-purse trying to calculate a precise 12.5 per cent and muttering: "If they paid these people properly there'd be no need for this."

But he is wrong. What the buccaneer knows and he does not is that in a dreary daily job, what lifts the spirit is a bit of unpredictability. An adventure.

When I was dragging tourists round Oxford or pulling pints for a basic wage, it was not only profitable but a source of endless interest and entertainment to be

WORKING LIFE

Libby Purves
on the joy of
the gratuity



able to say "Had a good day, thank God for Texas" or "Beat the average this week, thanks to that drunk judge from Dublin". Nor was it all down to sheer luck: I had a good trick with flying beermats which sometimes earned me the price of four or five "have-one-yourself-darling" drinks (a barmaid, as you know, keeps a glass of soda-water always at the ready to raise courteously to the

gent who thinks he has bought her a gin).

Nobody likes the idea of relying on tips for a living wage, but if a decent minimum comes from one's employer, there is no doubt that they improve the day. Taxi-drivers heartily agree. "Gives you an interest," said one. And they wistfully remember the days of the City Big Bang, when the new breed of barrow-boy dealers felt seriously rich and expressed their exuberance with folding money.

Those dealers, of course, were on a similar exhilarating roller-coaster themselves. They would win massive commissions one day and nothing the next, which made them kindred spirits of those whom they tipped. A lot of us are: we may wear white collars, but the same primitive needs drive us. We all came out of the jungle, and although a few have managed to bury the hunting instinct under a mound of monthly budget accounts and automatic salary increments, others still feel a powerful drive to stalk their prey, pounce, gorge and then starve until the next kill because that is the way life is. At the extreme, we go freelance. More moderate spirits stick with a salaried job for safety, but revel in tips and bonuses and commissions and windfalls.

a concern

INTERVIEW

Tale of the long distance actor

The resilient Tom Courtenay is on the road again, touring Britain in Molière's *The Miser*. He talks to Peter Barnard

To be Tom Courtenay's agent must be a labour of love. Here is a man who, in the mid-1960s, had the world at his feet. The tremendous critical (though not commercial) success of *The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner* in 1962, when he was 25, was followed by *Billy Liar* and brought him to the attention of Hollywood, for which he made *King Rat* and *Dr Zhivago*. He had become, in that awful, later word, "bankable".

The swimming pool and the gold chains beckoned. This was the era of the emerging Caine and Finney, fellow products of a brief renaissance in that now-you-see-it medium, the British film industry.

Courtenay came home to England, having turned down the Mirisch brothers. Not a lot of people, as Caine might have said, did that. Mirisch wanted Courtenay to make a film called *Hawaii*, for which one or two slightly impressive names had already been assembled: Julie Andrews, Gene Hackman, Richard Harris. But Courtenay was in Hollywood for *King Rat* and had to go to Spain for *Zhivago* and, well, he missed England more than he fancied Hawaii.

"They offered me a huge amount of money," he says now. "Mainly because I kept saying no and they kept putting the money up. I just didn't want to be this wretched little priest who went off to Hawaii to stop the natives enjoying themselves. I was homesick anyway and I wanted to get back to square one. My start was so meteoric that I hadn't got things sorted out. If you want a long career you have to work in the theatre, so that's what I did. I've never regretted it."

So Max Von Sydow got the job of converting the Hawaiians. Although Courtenay has, of course, done films since, and done some television, he became essentially an actor of the English theatre. At present he is on tour with Molière's *The Miser*, a play he loves by a writer he adores.

Courtenay will be 55 later this month. But despite the hair grown lank to accommodate the pinpricks for his part in *The Miser*, and the slight thickening at the waist, his face still carries the memory of that moment at the end of *Runners* when

the rebellious Borstal boy, seemingly subdued by the establishment and taught to run for its greater glory, stops dead short of the winning tape and refuses to move. Thirty years on, the hint of rebellion seems to live in the man as it did in the character. He talks in flatish Hull vowels with a mild forcefulness: one senses the steely determination that took him from the unpromising environment of Hull docks and a family of fishing folk (he remembers embryonic nets, strung all over the living room) to University College and the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.

He had acquired the taste for acting at grammar school, where he did play readings and read the lesson in assembly. Girls would point him out and say, "That's Tom Courtenay, he reads the lesson". In the 1950s this was less risible than it might be thought now. Courtenay liked it, as he liked the wider fame later. "I was shy but fame meant that shyness didn't matter; I was male and not homosexual so of course there were the girls."

His parents wanted him to go to University College. "So did I, but not for the same reason. My reason was that the university was in the same street as RADA and so I could stand on the pavement watching the RADA students, seeing how they walked. Learn things. I was in the dramatic society at university and somebody there knew somebody at RADA and they assured me that I could get in. So I did, and dropped the university course. It was all very unlikely."

So was the next step. Courtenay made his acting debut at the Edinburgh Festival in 1960, in Chekhov's *The Seagull*. "Penelope Gilliatt, who was then married to John Osborne, was reviewing it for *Queen* magazine and John Osborne saw it with her. They knew Tony Richardson was looking for somebody for *The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner* and they told him 'look no further'. It was a wonderful break."

That was a peak but there have been troughs. Only a couple of years ago, after a spell of the wrong offers and not enough offers,

Courtenay almost gave up acting altogether. Now, though, he feels "rejuvenated" and is anxious to make some contribution to the confirmation of theatre: "I'm finally interested again; a bit of filming wouldn't go amiss, but it's the theatre that absorbs me."

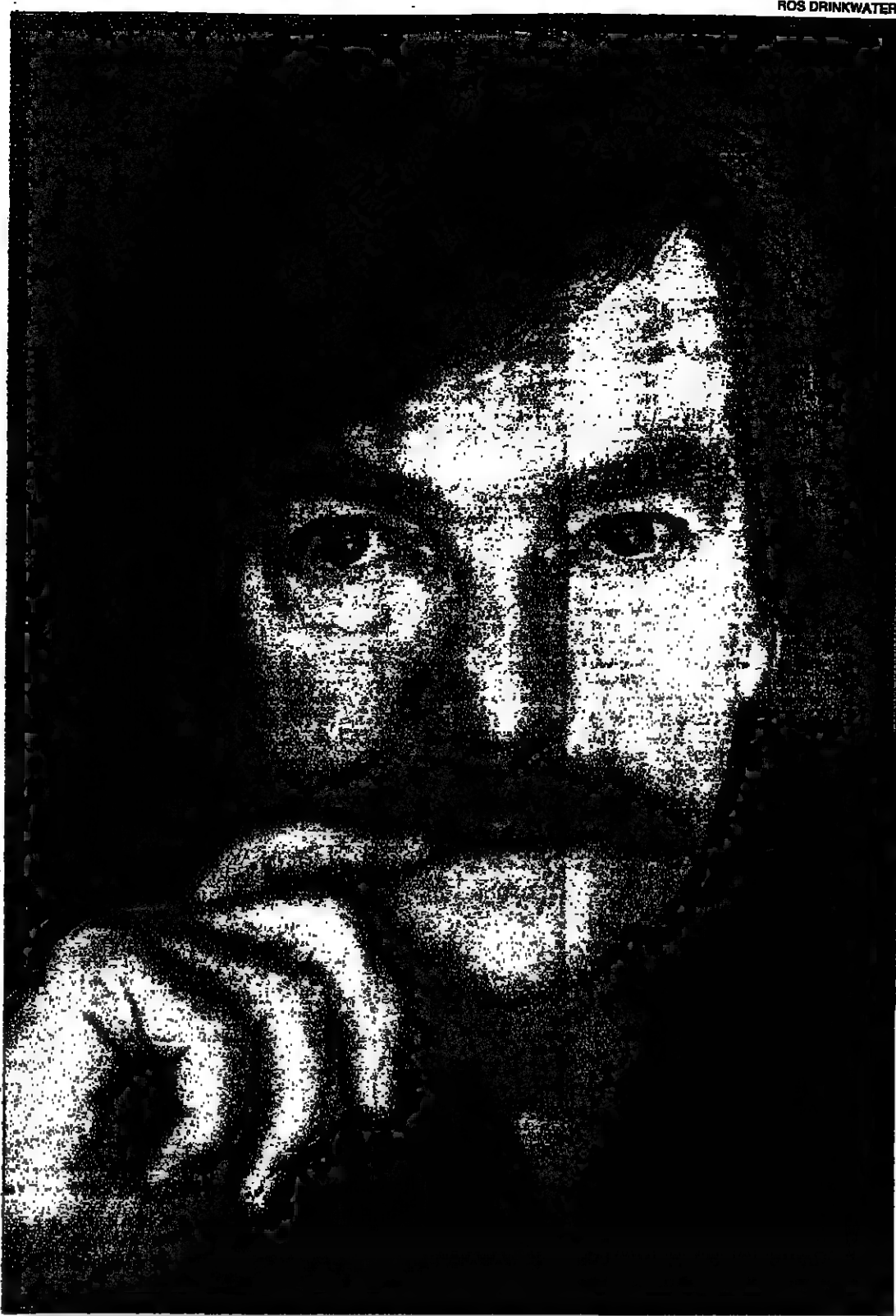
Courtenay says that part of the problem he and other English actors had, as regards crossover between theatre and film, is that Britain and America share the same language, which means that America, being altogether richer, dominates film. "If I had made the equivalent of *Long Distance Runner* and *Billy Liar* in Italy, say, or France, I would have been a movie star. But the English actor had to go to Hollywood. If you were Michael Caine, that is what you wanted to do. But not what I wanted to do: I was more interested in the theatre."

The right theatres, too. Courtenay has a great fondness for the Manchester Royal Exchange, where this production of *The Miser* originated, and he is convinced that if the theatre is to continue at all, it has to get the buildings right: there are, he says, good proscenium theatres, but in general theatre must be in the round.

Television has made people accustomed to seeing performance in a certain way and it's right that they should. But so many theatres have got it wrong; they are built by committees or by the state. Too few directors take an interest in the design. Most of them seem to be after the 'top job', regardless of whether the setting for the top job, the theatre, is useless.

"There are places in London that are heartbreaking, from the point of view of a theatre being an expression of human contact. If it's not, well, what's the point of it? So many buildings are in areas of cultural edifices that seem to have been built under a Stalinist regime: I'll say no more than that."

"All of a sudden I understand a lot of the disillusion I've felt with the theatre in London. Wonderful productions and talented people — but what buildings! My God." Courtenay prefers to avoid "specifics" but if his remark is taken as a reference to the National I doubt that he would protest too much. The trouble with so many the-



The rejuvenated Courtenay: "I'm finally interested again, and it's the theatre that absorbs me."

atres, of course, is that architects designed them. "Would they ask an architect to design a plane? No, it might look beautiful but will it fly, will it do its job?"

None of which should be taken to suggest bitterness. Courtenay is a man of few regrets and fewer complaints. He knows that turning down things reduces the number of things offered. He did some radio commercials for Swinton. Insurance but turned down the television version: "a bit of a blow for my agent". Well, quite. "I couldn't have

looked at myself, I'd be mortified. Which is not to deprecate actors who do television commercials. It's just that I can't."

What are Courtenay's remaining ambitions? I regret the word as soon as it is uttered: too pompous for this man. "I'm looking forward to getting rid of this cold. I'm looking forward to Dartington because there's no midweek matinee and we [he and his wife] have rented a place and it's got a wood-burning stove. We have one at my home in the Lake District. There

are two parts to my life: the part before I had a stove and the part since having a stove."

Slightly more seriously, there is also a possible Allan Plater project for television, a possible film, and the possibility that *The Miser* will get a London run. Actors are content with the possible, often as close as they come to certainty.

This week The Miser is at the Civic Theatre, Dartington (0325 486553); then it tours Edinburgh, Chichester, Croydon, Richmond, Birmingham, Guildford, Cambridge and Sheffield.

ARTS BRIEF

Books in the sand

TOMORROW, with the launch of the Friends of the Alexandria Library, international fund-raising begins for the library to be built on the site of the most famous in antiquity. The ancient library of Alexandria was the centre of Western scholarship for nearly a thousand years, until its demise in AD 642. The new library, which will specialise in ancient cultures and the study of early Christian and Islamic history, will open in 1996 and is expected to have four million volumes by the end of the century.

Over a third of its estimated \$160 million (£88 million) cost has already been raised; now the Egyptian government and Unesco (which judged 1,200 architectural proposals before selecting a Norwegian design) are starting a worldwide appeal. Tomorrow's launch, at the Naval and Military Club in London, is hosted by Dr Mohamed Shaker, the Egyptian ambassador, and Lord Briggs.

Vice and virtue

ONE highlight of this summer's Aidsburgh Festival (June 11-28) will be the world premiere of a new opera by John Tavener, the English composer much influenced by Orthodox Christianity. *Mary of Egypt* will have a text by the abbot of a Greek Orthodox monastery in Yorkshire, and is said to be about "the paradoxical mystery of virtue and vice in the person of priest, monk and harlot". Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress* and Britten's version of John Gay's *Beggar's Opera* will also be heard in concert performances, and a recital by Sviatoslav Richter, the great Russian pianist, is promised.

Last chance...

FOUR long monologues, cumulatively describing the life and death of a modern shaman, might not seem the most arresting prospect. But the author of *Faith Healer* is Brian Friel, and the main actors are Donal McCann and Sinead Cusack, who could read the *Dictionary of National Biography* and make it dramatic. Last performance of a revival that punishes the bottom but rewards the head is on Saturday at the Royal Court (071-730 1745).

CINEMA

Trigger sends his regrets

Bizarre images haunted the 21st Rotterdam Film Festival: a child aged ten, driving a Mustang car through a wonderland of American eccentrics in Barry Shils's silly *Motorama*; a lascivious, bald android tottering through *Pinocchio 964*, Japan's latest shock-horror. But none could top Roy Rogers, singing hero of a thousand B-Westerns, and his wife and co-star Dale Evans, who appeared in an amiable Dutch documentary, *Roy Rogers, King of the Cowboys*. Dressed in colours that scorched the eyes, they looked as though they were on loan from Madame Tussaud's.

"Hey, thank you for the cheese!" Dale burbled, as she met her worshipful director, Thys Ockers, at the Roy Rogers museum in California. Neither star, nor the colleagues and fans encountered en route, were tested very hard by Ockers's questions, though by turning back the clock to the age of innocence the film proved valuable enough. A pity Ockers could not have interviewed Trigger, "the smartest horse in the movies", who conveyed the hero at speeds reaching 50 mph and now stands in the museum, stuffed, rearing up on his hind legs. "When I die," Roy has told Dale, "just put me on Trigger."

So much for light relief. This friendly festival, under its new director Emile Fallaux, wasted no time buckling down to the usual business of celebrating the adventurous, and spotlighting fresh talent. The new man to watch is Takeshi Kitano, a popular Japanese actor (featured prominently in *Merry Christmas Mr. Lawrence*), who has now turned director with intriguing results. Three films were on view. The first two, *Violent Cop* and *Boiling Point*, made a point of blood and bullets, though the latter, at least, dressed the violence in laconic wit.

With his third feature, *A Scene at the Sea*, completed last year, Kitano came of age. His storyline is water-thin: a deaf refuse-collector finds a surfboard and struggles successfully to ride the waves. Each shot is timed and

Ageing cowboys and artistic oppression: Geoff Brown on the varied delights on offer at the Rotterdam Film Festival



Wax? Roy Rogers, Dale Evans in *King of the Cowboys*

framed with a jeweller's precision. Yet Kitano rarefies the atmosphere without swimming outside Japan's mainstream. Hypnotic, lyrical, bathed in humanism, *A Scene at the Sea* brings fresh air to a national cinema that can often appear stale or freakish.

Elsewhere, audiences succumbed to Maurice Tourneur's 1920 *The Last of the Mohicans*, screened in a tinted print restored by the Netherlands Film Museum. "What!" a title card thunders, "a daughter of Colonel Munro, admiring a filthy savage?" Plot preliminaries over, the film settles down to prove yet again the silent cinema's unique gift for visual storytelling. Adrian Johnston — rampaging, swooning and tootling on synthesizer, flute, and percussion — provided the evocative live accompaniment.

Soviet films from the Union's last gasp were everywhere. Emile Fallaux had many to choose from: 500 emerged last year, mostly produced by the hundreds of independent outfits mushrooming across the continent. The Promised Heavens, from Eldar Ryazanov, a veteran provider of box-office hits, turned the chaos of perestroika into broad satire. The

and announces his imminent departure for Siberia. Once neighbours give the brave lad a rousing farewell, and his room and furniture get snapped up, he lacks the fibre to call off the joke. So depart he must, in a bus trundling God-knows-where.

Dostal sets the provincial scene with some dazzling high-flying camerawork. But the film's main expressive tool is its star actor, Andrei Zhigalov, graced with the puckish face of a music-hall comedian. Dostal obviously intends his anecdote as a broad comment on Soviet society; the film's bounce, however, derives less from its allegory than its gentle observation of human behaviour.

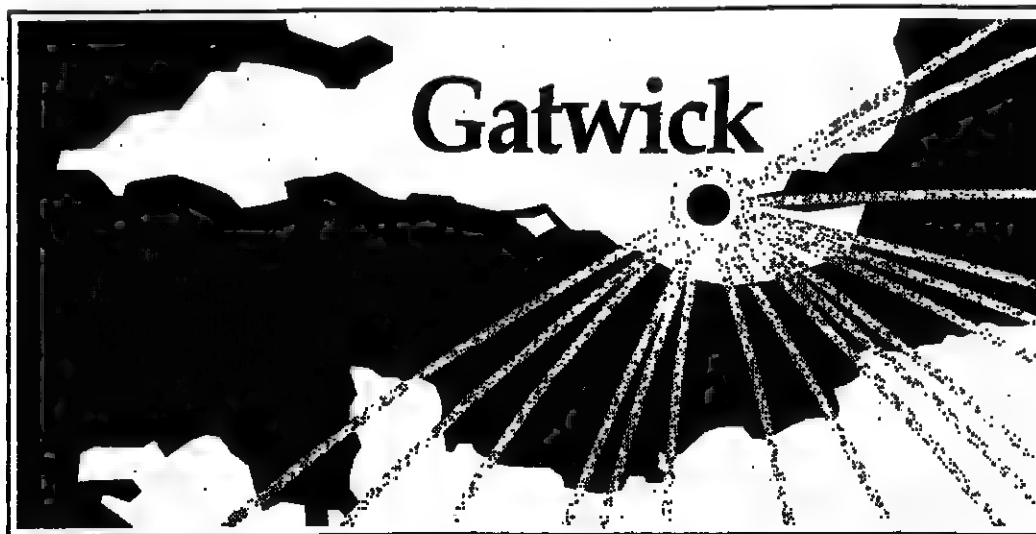
Other delights, piercing the Rotterdam fog, included Karwai Wong's *Days of Being Wild*, an atmospheric, sunningly visualised tale of Hong Kong youth in the Sixties, and Marie-Claude Treilhou's *Le Jour des rois*, an amusing, barbed study of *la vie bourgeoise*.

The oddest film in Rotterdam may well have been *Contre l'oubli*, made by Amnesty International and shown as part of "The Limits of Liberty", a festival conference on artists' freedoms and their oppression. Thirty directors (mostly French), backed by actors or other notables, took four minutes to highlight an abuse of human rights from the Amnesty files.

Michel Deville's opening segment showed Emmanuelle Beart writing to North Vietnam's president in support of Chi Thien, jailed poet. Alain Remais championed a mathematician professor in Cuba: Jean-Luc Godard spoke out for one Thomas Wainggai in Indonesia. René Allio wagged a finger at Britain for deporting a Sri Lankan.

Nobody should doubt the sincerity of everyone involved. Nonetheless, the film (two hours long) cannot help crumbling into a star-studded parade of bleeding hearts. One fears the North Vietnamese president will never take note. Even Rotterdam's good people found the going tough, and drifted off in twos and threes in search of Mohicans, lewd androids, and the ghost of Trigger.

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Hitler's Winter Olympics

In 1936 the nazis wanted to exploit a brilliant young skier for racial propaganda. Kathe Grasegger still lives in the Bavarian Alps and Andy Martin went to meet her

I first saw Kathe Grasegger in a photograph: she was one of four young women on skis, their arms around each other's shoulders, grinning at the camera, with a mountain and a flagpole flying a swastika in the background.

She took the silver medal in the women's combined slalom and downhill at the 1936 Winter Olympics, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, in the Bavarian Alps, was the high-altitude forerunner to Berlin's "Nazi Olympics" in the summer of the same year. Before 1936 there were only Garmisch and Partenkirchen: Hitler ordered

the two towns to unite as a symbol of the joining together of nations. It was the first time the Alpine disciplines of downhill and slalom had been included in the Olympics. The gold medal, in both the men's and women's races, was won by Germany.

Frau Grasegger (she has kept her maiden name) still lives in Partenkirchen ("not Garmisch", she stresses) in a broad, white-washed house. In 1936 she was 18 years old, the youngest member of the team, and milked cows on her parents' farm. Now she is in her seventies, but there is still something of the pig-tailed milkmaid about her. She has white hair, huge blue eyes shadowed by heavy eyebrows and strong, expressive hands.

Her Olympic silver medal and certificate, framed by her brother, hang on the wall in the living room next to one of her 1936 skis, 2.05 metres long and made in Norway.

She learnt to ski 60 years ago thanks to a team-mate, Lisa Resch, who was nine years older. "She was the ideal sportswoman. Her parents had money. Her father was a butcher and owned a shop. They had knives and forks to use when we went to dinner," Frau Grasegger says. She recalls that another of her team-mates, "Guzzi" Lanschner, worked with Leni Riefenstahl on *Olympia*, her film of the Berlin Olympics. There was a film of the Winter Olympics, too, that used to be shown with *Olympia*. It was only half an hour long. Would I like to see it?

Frau Grasegger's daughter draws the curtains. The film begins with a call to attention on

the horn and the title — *Jungen Der Welt* (Youth of the World). The soundtrack is brassy and melodramatic. An aerial shot of a snowscape punctuated by two towns like sultanas poking through the icing on a cake gives way to an image of clouds forming and then blowing away. The mountain beneath shines out like a lighthouse. Eagles wheel around the peak.

Great thick scoops of snow drop down. Olympic flags and swastikas flutter together from neighbouring poles. Hitler salutes and the German athletes return the salute with

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Hitler had plans for the skiers. He invited Kathe and Christl to dinner



Olympian grace: Kathe Grasegger competing in 1936 — "You couldn't go straight as you can now. It was technically more difficult. The slalom was perfidious"



Olympian salute: some spectators confused the British team's outstretched arms for a Nazi salute

showed. We always had to take our shoulder with us around the curve. The old technique is coming back again. They were good skiers in my time."

Security at the Olympics was very tight: police and soldiers were everywhere. Sir Arnold Lunn, one of the founding fathers of alpine sports, wrote that the Winter Olympics reminded him more of Sparta than of Athens and that "the snows of Garmisch were flecked by the shadows of war".

Frau Grasegger saw the German army as an extremely efficient squad of peacekeepers.

Was there not an element of propaganda, the Germans trying to show what supreme fitness beings they were? "We used to do it just for fun," she says. "It wasn't political. We were not dedicated. It was natural to ski here. We didn't take much notice of the army and the flags. I didn't even understand what the Olympics were. I didn't realise my achievement."

But Hitler did. He had plans for the alpine skiers: exploiting them as the embodiment of racial superiority. He invited Kathe and Christl to dinner in the chancellery. Just the three of them. I cannot help wondering if Kathe and Christl were candidates for recruitment to his scheme for genetic engineering. I imagine an inquisitorial doctor standing outside the door.

Frau Grasegger is embarrassed by the recollection. It is no longer possible for a German to remember meeting Hitler with equanimity. "I was only 18. I didn't know what it was all about. I should have done, but I didn't. I don't like to talk about it now," she says.

One of the British skiers, Helen Blane, befriended her and they still write to each other today. In the Garmisch-Partenkirchen Ski Club there is a picture of Helen Blane elbowing aside a New Zealand competitor. Now Helen Tomkinson: she remembers the German girls as the top team. Mrs Tomkinson went on to captain her team and represent Britain on the Fédération Internationale de Ski (FIS) and act as a judge at several world championships. She was made an MBE for services to skiing and became one of only three women to be made honorary members of the FIS.

In 1936 there was heated debate in the British team about how they should parade past Hitler. In the end they decided to adopt the formal Olympic salute with the right arm flung out to one side like a Morris Minor indicator. "When we went past the Germans were delighted and gave us a tremendous ovation," Mrs Tomkinson

says. "They misinterpreted it as a Nazi salute."

Those who spoke German were looking forward to hearing Hitler speak. "We were very excited, expecting some fiery rhetoric. But in the event all he said was, 'I declare the fourth Winter Olympic Games open'. It was a great disappointment."

Frau Grasegger married in 1939 and competed in one more international race in 1941. "Caro Cranz, Christl's brother, took the gold medal. He died a few months later on the Russian front. After the war, all my good friends were dead or missing. It wasn't the same," she says.

In 1936, surrounded by the apparatus of war, it was still possible to be carefree and light-hearted on skis. In 1992, Hitler is long gone but skiing has become a deadly serious business.

Frau Grasegger will be following the Albertville Olympics closely on television. She does not think much of Britain's chances of a medal. "Now it's faster — but easier. Everyone is professional and they do nothing but ski. We were more idealistic in the past." She agrees with Sir Arnold Lunn that the pre-war period was the golden age of skiing: "In those days there was no money and sport was simply sport."

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Public, but not publicly owned

When Palmerston was discovered to have been having an affair with a vicar's wife, Disraeli's preoccupation, so the legend goes, was that the news should not get out — it had been offered to him for use as a "smear" in the last administration of Palmerston's prowess (he was well into his seventies at the time) had the Whigs sweeping the country.

Last week, Paddy Ashdown handled his problem with dignity and honesty and my first reaction, now confirmed by an opinion poll, was that his stock would go up. The awful truth is, though, that Mr Ashdown probably had no choice since he was effectively forced into speaking out by unscrupulous "news" papers. So my subsequent reactions were of sadness, and then outrage. Predictably, the tabloids have had a field day on the subject and even the heavies have written pontificating leaders.

Whatever justification there be for this habit of the press of intruding into public figures' private lives? Or must they be forgiven if an anonymous envelope arrives on their desks containing incriminating photographs or even a stolen document? After all, isn't it their job to probe public figures? And isn't that per for the course for their targets?

These are important questions, on which I have my views and can see arguments both ways, having once been a journalist. Others will debate them but my main purpose here is to give pause for thought on what it is like to be a press "victim". To have the press on your trail is no joke. Some of the questions I've had hurled at me over the years I've been a politician's wife, usually at times carefully calculated to

Thérèse Lawson gives a personal view of politicians' rights to privacy

throw one off guard, have been unbelievably intrusive and "sneaky". I have observed that it is usually female journalists who get the job of asking the nasty, personal questions: draw what conclusions you will.

I don't mind admitting that I have shed more tears over press behaviour than over most other difficulties in my life — and not just over things the papers have printed. It is just as much their bizarre attitudes following you as you go about your everyday business (being quizzed while shopping for food springs to mind), pointing a zoom lens at your bedroom and then showing on television what time you drew your curtains back that morning, calling unexpectedly at the kitchen door with appallingly impertinent questions, tape recorder and a camera whirring, questioning neighbours and friends. And they will stop at nothing: in one instance I encountered a press man posing as a house viewer. It makes one wary, at best.

If by chance you are vulnerable, as I was when I was involved in an unfortunate mishap when a reversing bus ran into my stationary car, and I was found to be minimally over the legal alcohol level, then press attention becomes unbearable. Your misery is multiplied several fold for being pored over in public. The humiliation can be cruel.

I wasn't even a public figure in the proper sense — merely my husband's wife. A politician is a public, elected, figure and puts himself up for his views and policies. The

issues he pronounces for should properly be open to probing. And, again, speaking from experience, there is no shortage of such scrutiny of a politician's private life.

Why, though, the leap to the notion that the scrutiny may legitimately be transferred to his private life? A politician's private life is surely precisely that. By and large, his competence at his job is not going to be undermined more by one kind of private activity than another. Only if he decides to flaunt his private life as a politician seeking for still to become public. And the idea that politicians should be less frail in their conduct at home than anyone else is unrealistic. Why should they be?

Speaking for myself, I would feel uncomfortable if our legislators were all so rarefied as to be unaware from personal experience of less-than-perfect human behaviour. Would his patient think it right that an overweight doctor, possibly one who smoked, too, should be publicly pilloried?

If anybody is required to be impeccable in this life, it should be those journalists who poke around and sometimes even pay for salacious details of others' private lives, and who then sit in sanctimonious judgment with their pontifications. Worse still, on occasions when they do not even bother to be sure of their accuracy, they remain prepared to cause huge damage. Apologising in an obscure bit of their publications is of scant use, while dreadfully hypocritical.

It should not be beyond the power of government to devise laws for protecting the privacy of individuals, including politicians who do count as people. They do bleed. What is the harm in that?

Never should disregard for privacy be confused with freedom of information: that does not serve to discredit the real champions of freedom and information. And it is worth asking what freedom there is for the unfortunate under attack: I am sure that most decent people know when intrusion is over the top: look at how intolerable we find American inquisitions of political candidates.

But look, too, at how the television "stings" have soared when those inquisitions have been screened. So long as enough people buy and read what is regrettably permitted to be printed by scandal sheets, we have not voted with our feet. A big step is now needed: that is to refuse to supply the market for gossip that is unrelated to a person's competence for office. This is as much up to the newspapers as to any sector, but if they don't see it themselves, a stiff law of privacy might be the only answer. If there were no market, the kiss-and-tell boys and girls would be out of business, and so would the new type of thief who apparently goes for documents.

Having been there myself, and having friends in politics who have been crucified by press persecution — by no means always because they have behaved badly — I am amazed that new recruits to politics remain keen, prepared to suffer the consequences of a human frailty being the target of a bunch of callous hypocrites. Beware of being interesting to the press.

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Outrage: Thérèse Lawson was hounded after an accident

Hold tight on curves



The frill of it all: Azzedine Alaïa's collection has plenty of froth and bustle going on behind as he takes the cut that little bit further

Christy, Naomi, Yasmeen and Helena, the world's most glamorous models, pose their bouffant, barrel-style manes of hair and smoulder for the banks of photographers facing them at the end of the catwalk at the Azzedine Alaïa show in Paris. Their tips, glossed uniformly with St Tropez Sand by Revlon, part. Bosoms rise out of low-scooped jackets, seamed and engineered to do the job of underwired balcon bras. Gingerly — because they are balanced precariously on four-inch high wedge cork soles that give little support to heels or toes — the girls turn and a frenzied clamor from the cameras means that something just as interesting is going on *derrière*.

M. Alaïa, the designer who regularly gets the prize for taking cut and cling one centimetre closer

Liz Smith reports on the king of cling — Azzedine Alaïa, a designer who loves rounded bodies

to curves, has done it again. His latest hourglass skirt is seamed to spiral around hips before breaking into a swirl of bias gores that flip out with perky white frills at mid-thigh.

To show to best advantage the bunny-girl bustles of frothy white broderie anglaise that underpin his latest line, tails of jackets and shirts in Regency striped cottons button back. In the style of the 18th century.

"Les petites marquises," M. Alaïa says before the show as he tightens a red leather pinked-edge corset on the top model, Helena Christensen, and moves on to snip to the correct length the black laces on a black and white long dress with slashed sides. "They

can go into the streets and off on their motorbikes dressed as if for a ball, in lace with leather. It is Mme Pompadour in shorts."

The models forgive M. Alaïa the crippling mules. They would breathe in all day to be tightly laced into waspie belts made of leather punched to look like lace. They have turned down the thousands of pounds they might otherwise have earned that day in studios in New York and Milan for the pleasure of parading his new collection for summer. These curvy jackets, lacy shorts, and undulating sweater dresses will be their new uniforms, since M. Alaïa pays them in clothes not cash.

Just as Alaïa's most moulded and zipped jackets and skirts,

glossy patent trenchcoats and matt stretchy knitted separates set the trend for variations of his body-conscious style in every high street, versions of Alaïa's broderie ruffled skirts and close-fitted drill jackets will filter into mainstream fashion before long.

Whether he realises it or not, the inspiration for his latest fit-and-froth line seems to come as much from his friend, Vivienne Westwood, the trend-setting British designer, as from the 18th century.

Tight skirts with fluted hems stiffened with ruffles, flyaway shirtdresses, and jackets with handkerchief hems have all been

seen before in Westwood collections.

M. Alaïa is not the only Paris designer finding inspiration in Ms Westwood's ideas. Chanel's new jacket, designed by Karl Lagerfeld, is so closely fitted to the body that it is closed not with the line of gilt buttons that still trims the front, but with a zip up the back. Expertly cut and executed, it takes fashion forward another decade, but shown with teetering platform shoes, ratty hairdos and handkerchief hems, it is clearly Westwood-inspired.

When the models arrived for the Alaïa show in Paris last week and flopped into chairs to have make-up applied and false hair pieces pinned to their heads, they un-

wrapped their mock leopard shawl-collared coats and military greatcoats in curly fake braids to reveal glossy bottle green or aubergine skintight catsuits or shaggy chenille tunics — all Alaïa, and the model-girl's off-duty winter uniform. Yasmin le Bon, model and wife of Simon le Bon, had turned up in sleek Alaïa chic — a black suit with single-breasted jacket nipping in and out at all the right places and a mid-calf length skirt that looks modern and slinky. "His cut is so clever. It makes you stand well. A pair of thighs, ankle boots and a suit — and you feel finished," she says.

M. Alaïa learnt his dressmaking skills from his grandmother in Tunis, where he insisted on at-

tending sewing classes with his sisters. When he graduated from the Beaux Arts in Tunis he moved to Paris where he lived as guest and baby-sitter for the Comtesse de Bégiers, while building up a discreet clientele of his hostess's friends. He has dressed Garbo and a string of Rothschilds, Picassos and Niarchoses as well as Madonna and Tina Turner in his apparently seamless, lace-encrusted, draped evening dresses and radly-fitted, zippered leather jackets and skintight skirts.

"I think women should look coquettish and sexy always," he says. "Women can be daring, stop men in their tracks. All that matters is the way a woman wears her clothes, with an inner elegance. I love rounded bodies. It is the curves that give clothes their energy."

Exhibiting a feel for the times

How sticking to Queensberry rules can pay off for the commercial designer

The Queensberry Hunt has nothing to do with boxing or bloodsports — it is an almost wilfully low-profile design consultancy. The company specialises largely in extremely recognisable tableware which, during its 25-year history, has become one of Britain's few runaway success stories. And, rarer still, a healthy proportion of the group's output is manufactured in this country.

Public awareness of the group's designs is about to be raised by a retrospective exhibition at the Victoria & Albert museum, where their uncompromisingly 1960s-style straight-sided striped coffee pots and side-handled soup bowls (still in production)

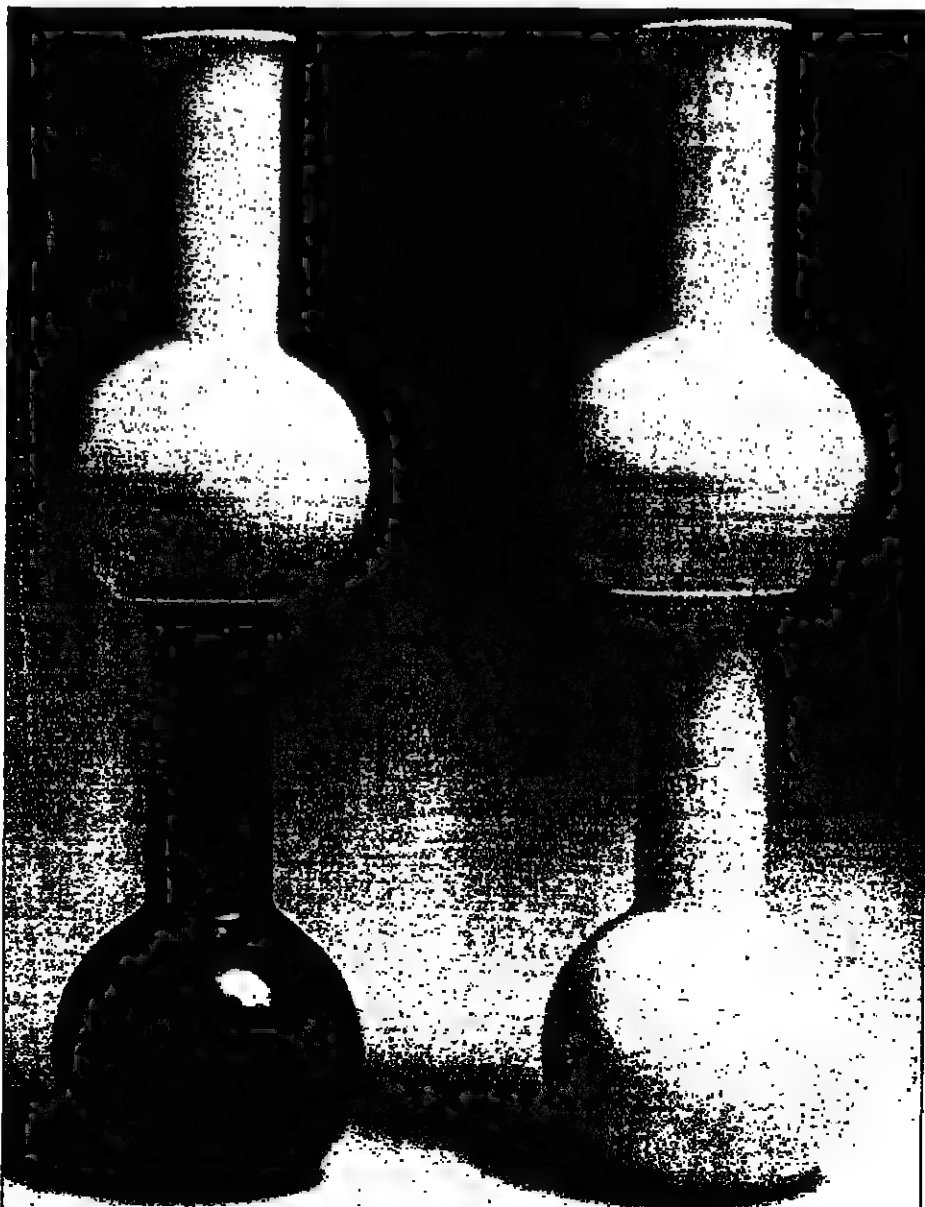
contrast with timeless chunky hemispherical and octagonal ashtrays and candlesticks commissioned by Habitat: these have dated not one bit, so naturally they have been unobtainable for decades.

Today the group has diversified into such fields as sanitary ware and even personal telephones, while its older designs still sell strongly abroad as well as in this country.

Good design and commercial viability became a guiding principle of the partnership when it was formed in 1966 by David Queensberry — the 12th Marquess — and Martin Hunt, when they were both teaching at the Royal College of Art.

Lord Queensberry, who had been appointed professor of ceramics at the age of 29, was already successfully marketing his unashamedly "contemporary" designs to manufacturers such as Midwinter and Crown Staffordshire. The result was some fairly forgettable bowls and rugs strongly influenced by Fornasetti and kinetic art.

He really came into his own in 1963, with a range of tableware called "Fine", the lean lines and slender but generous handles capturing perfectly the feel of the times. Terence Conran's newly launched Habitat did a roaring trade with Fine, and Queensberry eagerly promot-



Controversial colour: these stacking vases were rejected by the Design Council

ed his designs elsewhere. "If David had come from an East End background rather than the nobility, he would have been a very successful 'fixer'. He's got a real market-trade streak in him, something I have always liked and admired," says Sir Terence Conran — himself an

adept at gauging the market. Sometimes Lord Queensberry's enthusiasm for innovation proved to be beyond the technology available in 1965, he produced a range of revolutionary oven-to-table ware with a non-stick lining. However, the lining — called "Fluon" — exhibited an

alarming tendency to peel away, prompting the following telex from a disenchanted wholesaler: "Fluon stock flew off." The range was not a success.

Mr Hunt's early designs were strongly influenced by traditional Japanese porcelain and the studio pottery of

Lucy Rie. The partnership fused seamlessly the elegance of his work with the practicality and wit of Lord Queensberry's designs, and soon awards were coming in for products as diverse as Hornsea ovenware, table lighters for Rosenthal, and bulbous glass and plastic lamps for Habitat. A range of beautiful vases for Poole Pottery was rejected by the Design Council, however, on the grounds that the colours were "too controversial"; this was discovered to mean that the vases were neither black nor white.

Despite the occasional lapse into mere repro or downright whimsy the work of Queensberry Hunt has been consistently understood.

This is exemplified by the group's recent diversification into baths and basins for Ideal Standard. Their brief was to bring in the finest shapes at the lowest cost as a result, the "Studio" range threatens to outsell products costing five times as much.

The group has also tackled cutlery and some neat and futuristic telephones for British Telecom but, despite its track record it still finds it immensely difficult to make manufacturers accept that the consultancy can design, say, a camera, when it has never done so before.

But ultimately, the designs must sell: even the purest idea will be rejected unless it can be manufactured and sold in sufficient quantities, and one-off craft work is out. As Lord Queensberry says: "I never wanted to be arty-crafty. Why spend your life making by hand what a machine can do so much better?"

JOSEPH CONNOLLY

Queensberry Hunt: Creativity and Industry is at the Victoria & Albert museum until May 1. The book of the same title, by Susannah Walker, is published by Fourth Estate (£16.95).

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Plants blow last post for pests

A group of common European flowering plants called the bugles and an Indian lilac may hold the key to environmentally safe agriculture, Nick Nuttall reports

A tiny plant with flowers shaped like a brass musical instrument could hold the key to the environmentally safe control of garden and agricultural pests.

Scientists at the Jodrell Laboratory in Kew Gardens, west London, have discovered a compound in a group of common European flowering plants called the bugles, which seems to act as a powerful natural insecticide.

Tests indicate that the compound, which is found in the leaves and roots, works in two ways to leave pests weak, infertile and vulnerable to natural predators, such as birds.

The compound stops the insect feeding, possibly by tricking its brain into believing it is full. The substance can also damage an insect's ability to develop normally, possibly by interfering with the hormones that control growth and development.

The scientists were directed towards the bugles by nature itself, says Monique Simmonds, an entomologist at the laboratory.

Observations had shown that bugles (*Ajuga*) appear to have fewer insects crawling and feeding on them than most other species of plants.

Dr Simmonds says: "This is one of the advantages of Kew. Because you have a huge diversity of plants you can get the insects to do some of the testing for you."

The technique has also led to the team discovering potential insecticides in *Scutellaria*, which includes plants commonly known as the skullcap and lesser skullcap.

Like the bugles, these plants appear to produce an anti-feedant that also interferes with insect development.

Other exciting possibilities involve the aloe, of which the most familiar is *Aloe vera*. The researchers are basing their studies on the wealth of African and southern Arabian folklore that mentions aloe.

Tom Reynolds, a biochemist at the laboratory, says: "There are about 300 species, some of which are very rare and grow in remote regions, and many of them are said by native practitioners to have medicinal properties. We believe

there must be something in it." The Kew research is part of a global effort to return to nature to discover a new generation of agrochemicals and pharmaceuticals, as well as fibre-based materials and fuels.

In recent years teams of scientists have been descending on the tropical rain forests to learn the secrets of native shamans and tribesmen while searching for plant-based cures for diseases, including Aids, cancer, herpes and the common cold.

The research might also help preserve the forests and the peoples that live in them by making it economic to establish conservation programmes. In Costa Rica, for example, the government has established the non-profit National Institute for Biodiversity, which is training local people to learn about local flora.

Drug companies such as Merck of America are paying the institute \$1 million to help pay for the training, the collection of suitable plants and conservation work. In return, Merck gets the rights to study the plants and will pay royalties to the institute for any products that result.

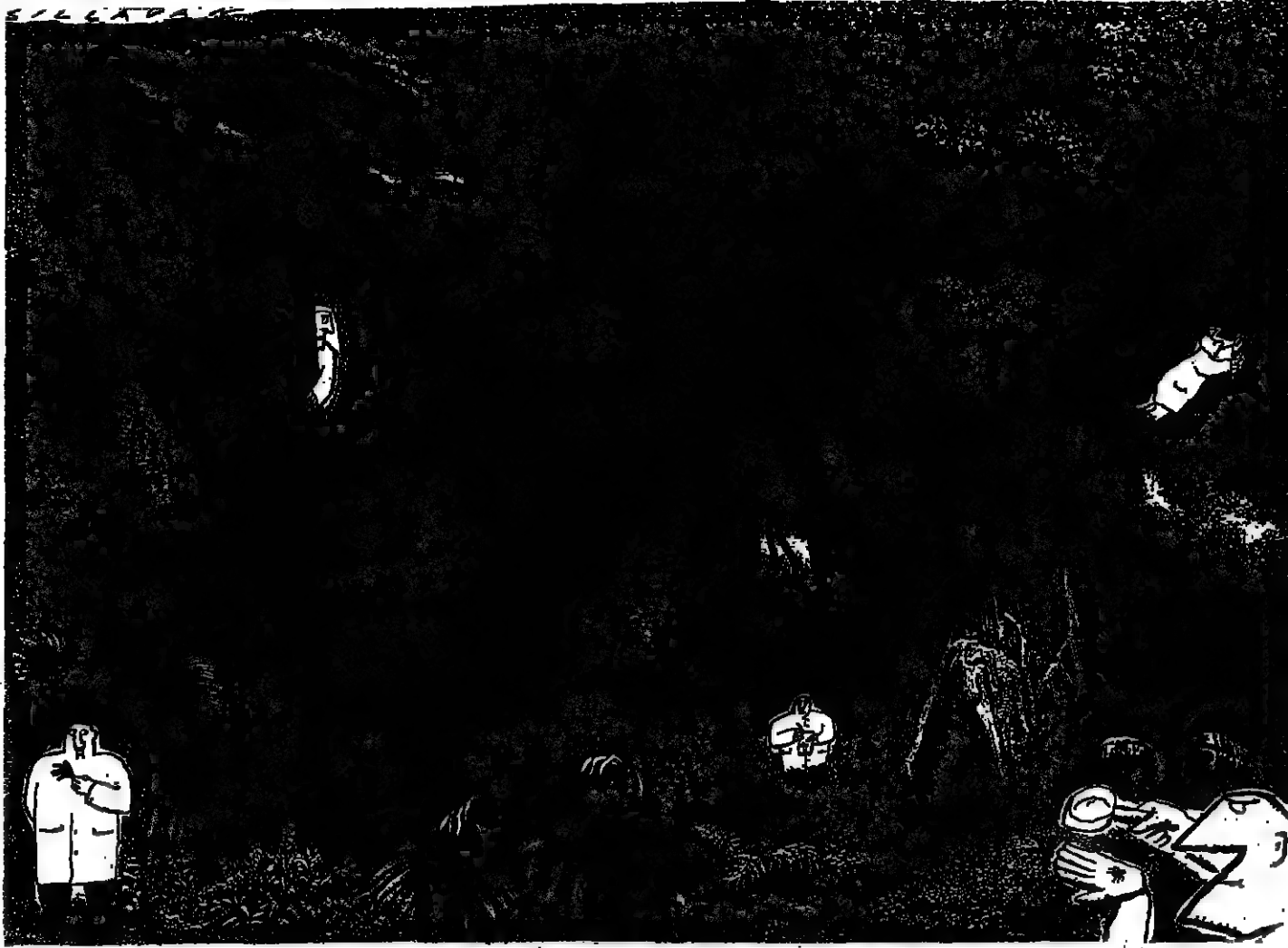
Such plant-based research is already bearing fruit, not in the tropical rainforest but in India.

There, Rohm & Haas, the big American chemical company, is planning to build a factory to exploit what is possibly one of the most promising plants in the world.

The neem tree or Indian lilac, *Azadirachta indica*, a relative of the mahogany, which grows in India and the Caribbean, has been used by local people for centuries for various purposes.

The leaves of the tree, which grows rapidly to about 90 ft, contain a substance called azadirachtin, which, like the compound found in the bugle plants, inhibits feeding and growth in more than 150 species of insects, including locusts, which avoid feeding on the leaves.

Neem leaves and seeds have also been used for centuries as a painkiller and for treating psoriasis, warts and body parasites. Oil from



the seeds can also be made into a lubricant and a soap, sometimes used for repelling mosquitoes.

The tree's bark seems to contain a compound that kills bacteria, and sticks of bark are used by local people to clean their teeth.

Another American company, W.R. Grace, has recently introduced an insecticide called Margosan-O, based on neem extract, for spraying on ornamental plants. Another, more concentrated version is awaiting US Food and Drug Administration approval for agricultural use.

These applications have even been given the blessing of one of America's most respected scientific bodies. The National Research Council, part of the National Academy of Science in Washington DC, last week published a report calling for more research into the neem and improved ways of extracting its naturalising compounds.

The report says: "If the neem

lives up to its early promise, it will help to control many of the world's pests and diseases as well as reduce erosion, desertification, deforestation and perhaps even slow the rate of increase in population."

Neem is also said to kill sperm and reduce male fertility. In Britain, the potential benefits of the neem have not gone unnoticed. The active ingredient, azadirachtin, claimed to be one of the most complicated and exotic chemicals known, was first isolated by David Morgan and John Butterworth at Keele University, Staffordshire, in 1968.

At Imperial College, London, a team led by Steven Ley, professor of organic chemistry, is trying to synthesise versions of the neem's active compound. The team is working at Kew with Dr Simmonds, who is testing the compounds on insects to discover the neurological receptors that are stimulated by neem pesticide.

The goal is not only to under-

stand precisely how the neem compound works but to make a range of pesticides based on modified fragments of the azadirachtin molecule which will be cheap to produce and more selective against insects, while still remaining harmless to the environment.

Five years ago, Professor Ley's team managed to work out azadirachtin's bewildering structure. Last year, the scientists announced they had synthesised the two halves of the molecule. The team has also discovered that it is the right-hand portion that has potent anti-feedant effects.

An attempt is now being made, says Professor Ley, to synthesise the whole molecule, as well as derivatives "that will have improved properties, such as stability, in the sunlight and the soil, and will allow more potent compounds to be used in smaller quantities."

However, the British researchers are worried because, unlike in the United States, funding for their world-beating research is woefully low and their lead could be lost.

Dr Simmonds says: "British chemical and pharmaceutical companies are really on the sidelines with this kind of research."

"We are invited to go and talk about what we are doing, but for some time we have had little funding."

Her concerns are echoed by Professor Ley, who says: "We are getting some funding from the Science and Engineering Research Council, but it is amazing how short-sighted some of the other research councils can be."

Professor Ley maintains that all that is needed is four or more science staff to propel the research forward. He adds: "Despite our world lead, we are still unable to make this research into a great UK success."

Moon oxygen

Japanese and American engineers say they have built equipment to supply oxygen to Moon settlements. The engineers used a KC-135 plane to simulate low gravity and sand similar to that on the Moon as one of the raw materials to show that oxygen could be produced on the Moon. Last October engineers produced water by causing a reaction between sand brought from the Moon and hydrogen.

In memory

English Heritage has placed a blue plaque on Donovan Court in Drayton Gardens, Fulham, west London, where the scientist Rosalind Franklin lived between 1951 and her death in 1958.

Dr Franklin took the x-ray photographs of DNA from which its double-helix structure was deduced.

Boycott call

Two Nottingham University physicists, Peter Main and Brian Gallagher, have urged scientists to boycott a conference in Peking in August.

Attendance at the meeting, an important international forum for semiconductor physicists, would be used by the Chinese government to show that their regime had world support, the two researchers argue in *Physics World*.

They say Chinese physicists who supported the democracy movement are still in jail.

Smoke report

A survey has shown that American magazines that did not carry cigarette advertising were 40 per cent more likely to report the hazards of smoking. The survey, of 99 magazines over 25 years, was carried out by Kenneth Warner, of Michigan University, and was published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

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A highly motivated & efficient Russian mother tongue sec with fluent English is sought to work for this major bank. Lots of involvement and responsibility for an individual. Salary commensurate with exp. or exp. working for a major Co is an. Russian 5/11 a week. English MT. sat.

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A Nobel effort, but could do better

Each year, at a glittering awards ceremony, the handsome sum of £150,000 — the gift of a millionaire philanthropist — is handed out to schools and educationists. The money is a reward for excellence — a kind of Nobel prize for Education.

As they step forward to receive their awards, the head teachers and professors must marvel at their good fortune. The Jerwood Award is the biggest prize of its kind, and more cash than the average teacher can begin to imagine.

But only three years after it was founded, the Jerwood Award is in trouble. Hardly anyone knows about it. The prize has manifestly failed to make education more exciting. Britain's most prestigious educational prize has become a victim of the very apathy it was meant to challenge.

The prize, which has so far been won by three schools, two educationists and one large scheme, was the brainchild of John Jerwood, a British-educated businessman who made a fortune trading in cultured pearls in the Far East.

Jerwood, who died last year, felt that, in comparison with Japan, education is held in low esteem in Britain. He conceived of an annual award for innovation, achievement and excellence in British education, to raise the status of education and boost teachers' morale.

Since its launch in 1989, however, the reality of the prize has been somewhat different. The first award, of £100,000 to the Nat-

A glittering scheme to boost teachers' morale has been ignored by too many for too long, Michael Durham says

tional Curriculum Award — a bi-annual charitable scheme to support good practice in schools — offered a clue to the kind of reception Jerwood's idea could expect in Britain.

The success of the curriculum scheme was largely ignored by the British media, which devoted most of its attention to the runner-up, a Roman Catholic girls' school in the Falls Road area of Belfast, which received £50,000. Bombs and bullets made headlines, but a serious educational issue did not.

The award has since been given to an inner-city comprehensive in London, an infants' school in

Reading, a schools' technology pioneer, and professor of education. But it has never in the organisers' view, received the serious attention it deserves.

Few teachers, and even fewer members of the public, have heard of the prize. Fewer than 400 entries are made each year, a disappointing figure in view of the 25,000 schools and 450,000 teachers who might be expected to be queuing up for the money.

The Jerwood Foundation, a Leighton-based charity which funds the prize, is now reviewing its options. Although it is unlikely to abandon it altogether, changes

are likely which will make the award more newsworthy, while still keeping to its original spirit. The prize money could be reduced. Alan Grieve, the foundation's chairman, says: "A lot of people have suggested that a prize of £100,000 or £150,000 is too large. Perhaps we could achieve more by having a larger number of smaller prizes."

In future the award is also likely to be made to individual "gifted teachers", and each year a different theme or subject might be set. So far, individual star performers have not been rewarded.

The change will alter Jerwood's

original plan but not, says Grieve, his intentions. "John wanted to find the kind of person who was not just a star performer, but the one who was throwing a stone into the pond — making waves, having a wider effect. We shall probably have to review that in the light of changed circumstances."

"But the problem remains — how do you find the gifted teacher? We can only go on the names that are forwarded to us. The number of applications is not very satisfactory. It is surprising that there are not many more."

Despite the disappointment, there are signs that the Jerwood Award may be overcoming its initial problems. This year, in the first month of submissions, 230 applications have been received. Nominations close on March 31

and the winners will be announced in July.

Professor John Tomlinson, one of the judges — others include Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, Baroness Blackstone and Sir Philip Harris — blames an anti-educational culture and the media for the failure of the scheme so far.

A handful of teachers and educational theorists can walk a few inches taller — and significantly richer — as a result of John Jerwood's extraordinary awards. But it looks as if it could take a long time to achieve his vision of a Nobel prize for Education.

Application forms for the 1992 award: the Jerwood Award, 34 John Street, London WC1N 2EL. Schools, educational schemes or individuals may nominate themselves or others. Entries to be returned by March 31

Five out of ten for Clarke

A genuine partnership in teacher training cannot be created on the orders of Whitehall mandarins

Oxford University and Oxfordshire should be delighted about Kenneth Clarke's plans to base teacher training in the schools. The university and the county education authority are already joined in a working partnership to do just this. Why is their response far from enthusiastic?

The secondary head teachers with whom the university works, feel apprehensive, sometimes angry, at what the education secretary is suggesting, even though his proposals seem at first glance to be so much in tune with their policy and practice and even though Oxford's internship scheme has been cited so often by ministers as an example of what should be done.

Mr Clarke rightly links quality in teaching to quality in professional preparation (although, of course, many other factors might affect that quality). Thus, if teachers do not acquire in training the variety of skills they need, then they may never acquire them. If teachers acquire in initial training an inappropriate set of values and beliefs, then their perception of their professional task might be distorted for ever. Witness the recent attacks on the Plowden report and its baleful influence (so it is claimed) on a generation of teachers. Therefore, the Secretary of State has rightly been con-

cerned about the quality of teacher training.

Mr Clarke made the following points: that training should be more school-based than he thinks it is (and he specifies 80 per cent of the postgraduate course to be school-based); that schools should be selected for this purpose according to criteria agreed by the Secretary of State; these schools to include independent ones; that experienced teachers should be chosen within the schools to act as mentors in the supervision of the trainees; that there should be a closer partnership between school and university or college.

In which the colleges would take the lead; that there should be a re-allocation of funds to reflect this change of balance; and that training should be much more practical. All this seems so perfectly sensible that it is difficult to know why anybody outside higher education establishments of teacher training (whose self-interest in preserving the status quo needs no explanation) should take exception to it. Indeed, if there were to be a General

Teaching Council, as is now strongly supported, then the teaching profession would (quite rightly) be wanting to influence the entrance requirements for training and its content and outcomes.

The headteachers, the local authority and the university department are apprehensive and annoyed because that partnership, which is talked

attached to one school to teach interns each week; the university subject tutors, in addition, support the mentors, and the interns within their subjects, in several schools; the mentors work within those schools, and shared development of that theoretical perspective of teaching which is the mark of the professional.

The cost to the LEA is approximately £1,000 per intern.

The heads and schools want the scheme and are anxious to support it for several reasons.

First, the professional development of the teachers through the role of mentor is an important part of their in-service training. Second, the scheme provides a valuable networking of subject teachers in schools and professional tutors in the university, in what is an increasingly fragmented service. Third, the schools value the continued link with a university department whose academic work and research feed directly into that practice. Fourth, the interns, so closely supervised and supported and only gradually initiated into the complex

world of the school, are by February making a very positive contribution to their schools.

The scheme, however, does depend upon a real partnership between university and schools — one in which there are shared values, shared interest in research, shared selection of schools and departments and mentors within those schools, and shared development of that theoretical perspective of teaching which is the mark of the professional.

None of this can be created at the fiat of a secretary of state. Nor can the rules of partnership and selection of schools be determined by mandarins far removed from the local scene.

For effort and aim, the Secretary of State has been assessed at level eight by the Oxford scheme, but for understanding and detail only at level five. He has been over-influenced by those who see university departments, such as that at Oxford, to be having a dubious influence over the next generation of teachers through the promotion of "dogmatic orthodoxes". He can be assured that, where there is real partnership, the teachers are too canny to let that happen.

RICHARD PRING

The author is Professor of Educational Studies, Oxford University



Partnership in action: Richard Pring, of Oxford University, at the Cherwell School

Bringing ministers to book

WRITING in the *Bookseller* recently, Richard Hoggart argued that the challenge to Britain at the approach of the 21st century was the "disabling level of literacy in which most people are now stuck".

This level was insufficient to allow individuals to cope with the increasing complexity of industrial life, and "inadequate in ways essential to a democracy".

There is a direct connection between what Dr Hoggart called a "congealed low level of literacy" and the shortage of books in schools, a shortage that has persisted so long, together with the low expectations that go with it, that many teachers have accepted it as a way of life.

The latest published figures, for 1989-90, show spending on books at £9 for a primary child and £13.50 for a secondary pupil. For many years, the Book Trust has published an analysis of costs and standards: it quotes figures of £15 and £25 as "reasonable", and £20 and £30 as "good".

Book Trust figures, and before them figures prepared by the National Book League and the Association of Education Committees, have been unofficial guidelines for many years. Significantly, there are no official guidelines. Ministers who sound off about low standards in primary schools should take note; if they want higher standards of literacy, this is where to start.

School libraries are also inadequate. An HMI survey of 42 libraries in primary schools last year concluded that none had "very good provision".

The inspectors commented on the impact on children's reading abilities "of the presence of books that are dated, inappropriate, worn and grubby".

Average spending was £2.85 a pupil, although "the average primary school



What price reading? More should be spent on books for schoolchildren

library book costs £6.50". A reasonable figure would be nearer £5. Schools tell of shared books, books handed out for one class, then retrieved for another, and of increased photocopying. A book of your own is rare. Some parents can provide extra books at home. For many children, however, there is no such parental backup.

How do the maintained schools compare with the independent schools? Spending on books and equipment for primary pupils in the state sector is £24 compared with £44. At secondary level, the margin is £70 for the maintained schools and £88 for the independent day schools.

Strict comparisons are of course difficult, but what is beyond doubt is that the attitudes and expectations in the two sectors are quite different.

The national curriculum gives immediate urgency to the poverty of book provision. The working groups that were set up to draft the new curriculum were not required to consider the

resource implications, but of course they could not help doing so; history, modern languages and geography all drew attention to the new demands they were creating.

The government has taken a step in the right direction by making a special temporary allocation of £15 million a year. Though welcome, it is however inadequate.

A careful examination of the main curriculum working party proposals by the Educational Publishers' Council puts the cost at £150 million over five years. Well, publishers would say that, wouldn't they? Yet their reasoning has not been challenged. As more schools take control of their own budgets, they will be told they have the answer in their own hands.

Their freedom of action is, however, limited: they are at the receiving end of the budget cuts many authorities are now having to make. The trouble is that although books are essential for good learning, they are always at risk in the face of more immediately pressing demands.

To campaign for more money for books looks at first sight like just another demand for more public spending. This is not so. As education spending exceeds the £25 billion mark, it would be quite simply ludicrous to argue that we cannot afford to provide enough books for all pupils and students.

The argument is about the need to put greater emphasis on books as a vehicle for learning for books as the element that grounds the national curriculum in an enabling level of literacy that is the antithesis of the picture drawn by Dr Hoggart.

ANNABEL JONES

The author is an educational publishing consultant

Help for Albania

Alan Howarth, the education minister responsible for European matters, has launched an appeal to provide materials for Albanian school children. Save the Children will administer the British contribution to Education Aid, which will operate in 26 European countries.

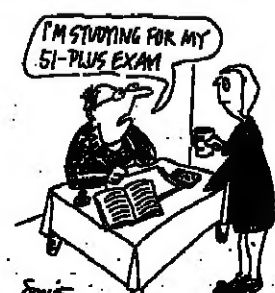
Mr Howarth says: "The plight of Albanian schoolchildren is extreme even by comparison to the problems we are seeing in other countries of central and eastern

Europe. The most useful contributions will be paper, exercise books, pencils, crayons, picture books and recreational toys."

Information: contact Paul Bennett, Feed The Children, 1 Priory Avenue, Caversham, Reading, Berkshire RG4 7SE.

Old learners

Demand for education is likely to increase among those over 50, according to research sponsored by the Carnegie Foundation. A report by academics at Edinburgh University finds that more "third-agers" — partic-



ularly women — than ever before are studying.

Poly rush

Polytechnics and colleges have received 37 per cent

more applications than the record number registered last year. The single application form for universities and polytechnics, which is being used for the first time, is thought to be a factor.

Keyed in

More than 70 per cent of secondary school pupils have access to computers both at home and at school, according to a survey by the publishers of *Whitaker's Almanack*. Almost two-thirds of the 405 teenagers interviewed in 10 schools watched or listened to daily news bulletins.

JOHN O'LEARY

POSTS

RECTOR

The Polytechnic of East London is seeking to appoint a Rector to succeed Professor G T Fowler, who retires this year.

The person appointed will have an outstanding record in direction and leadership gained in higher education, or a commercial or industrial setting.

Further information about this post may be obtained from the Secretary & Registrar, Polytechnic of East London, Romford Road London E15 4LZ. Tel 081 590 7722.

The Polytechnic is an Equal Opportunities Employer

POLYTECHNIC OF EAST LONDON

DEPUTE PRINCIPAL

Applications are invited for the post of Depute Principal of Napier Polytechnic which will become vacant this summer on the retirement of Professor Kathleen J. Anderson OBE.

Napier Polytechnic will become Napier University later this year and is one of the largest, most advanced and progressive institutions of higher education in Scotland.

Applicants should possess suitable qualifications and have substantial relevant experience compatible with the challenges to be presented by the emergence of a powerful and influential new university in Scotland.

The closing date for applications is 6 March 1992 and further details may be obtained from The Secretary, Napier Polytechnic, 219 Colinton Road, Edinburgh, EH14 1DJ.

NAPIER POLYTECHNIC OF EDINBURGH

Plater College Oxford

The Catholic Workers College

The College is seeking nominations and applications for the post of Principal. Plater College, founded in 1921, provides residential education of university standard in the social sciences, against the background of Catholic social teaching, for adults whose formal education has been interrupted. Currently there are 78 residential students studying for Oxford University or Plater College Diplomas. Plater has a special relationship with the University of Oxford. The College is attractively sited with modern well-kept buildings.

A Principal is sought who will maintain Plater's unique mission and fine standards, at the same time as taking the College forward into a new and demanding phase. Plater is keen now to develop and expand its provision, its research and its European international work.

The new Principal will need to be a committed Roman Catholic who can enhance Plater's contribution to the education of working people and lead the College's future development at this key stage in its history. Initial salary £30,000 per annum plus a modern four bedroomed house.

Nominations should be made as soon as possible. The closing date for applications is 21 February. For full details please contact: The Clerk to the Governing Body, Plater College, Pulteney Lane, OXFORD, OX3 0DT. Telephone 0865 741676.

St George's Hospital Medical School

CHAIR IN CHILD MENTAL HEALTH

Applications are invited from academic child psychiatrists for the Chair in Child Mental Health tenable at St George's Hospital Medical School.

This new Chair has been created by the School, University and the Wandsworth Health Authority to develop innovative teaching and research in the subject. In addition, it is anticipated that the postholder will have a strong interest in the development and evaluation of child mental health in primary care settings.

Candidates wishing to discuss the post informally are invited to contact Professor A W Ascher, Dean of St George's Hospital Medical School on 081-672 9944 extension 5808. Applications (13 copies) together with the names of 3 referees to be sent to the Personnel Officer, St George's Hospital Medical School, Cranmer Terrace, London SW17 0RE, from whom further particulars may be obtained, telephone 081-784-2781 (24 answerphone). Please quote reference 11/92. Closing date 31 March 1992.

BBC 1

- 6.00 Cee-fax (10720) 6.30 Breakfast News (47267805)
 9.05 Kilroy, Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject (4347132) 9.50 Hot Chefs. Anthony Wormald Thompson begins his second week preparing crab blinis with poached eggs and hollandaise, and a roquette salad (5272101)
 10.00 News, regional news and weather (803952) 10.05 Playdays (1) (1892045) 10.25 Playdays (1) (8032010) 10.35 No Kidding: Family quiz game show (1) (5502381)
 11.00 News, regional news and weather (7288316) 11.05 Olympic Grandstand introduced by Desmond Lynam. Live coverage from Val d'Arenes of the men's combined downhill (1911887)
 12.00 News, regional news and weather (8823213) 12.05 Pebble Mill. Music and chat presented by Judi Spliers (1) (9504381) 12.55 Regional News and weather (8823213) 1.30 Neighbours. (Cee-fax) (1) (5502381)
 1.50 Olympic '92. Helen Rollason introduces ice hockey in which Canada, silver medalists in the world championships, meet Switzerland, the United Team (formerly the Soviet Union) play Norway and Czechoslovakia challenge France (31060381)
 3.50 Barney (1) (8867039) 3.55 Radio Roo. Episode six of the 13-part comedy drama (1) (8039132) 4.10 Jackanory. Helena Bonham-Carter with the first of a five-part story, The Way to Satin Shore, by Philippa Pearce (5522861) 4.25 Fantastic Max (1) (8037107) 4.35 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles. (Cee-fax) (2448942)
 5.00 Newsworld (3876789) 5.05 Blue Peter. Includes a look at the Royal Mail green issue stamps designed by four Blue Peter viewers. (Cee-fax) (1) (5647132)
 5.35 Neighbours (1). (Cee-fax) (1) (443478). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
 6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Moira Stuart. (Cee-fax) (581)
 6.30 Regional News Magazines (861). Northern Ireland: Neighbours
 7.00 Wogan. The guests are John Harvey-Jones, Faith Popcorn, described as a marketing guru, and Eddy Shah. Music is provided by Everything But the Girl (1) (5033)
 7.30 Watchdog. Consumer affairs magazine. This week's edition includes Bill Hamman reporting on how time-share dealers in Tenerife are turning their attentions to unlikely new markets (385)
 8.00 May to December. Mid age-gap comedy starring Anthony Rodgers and Lesley Dunlop (1). (Cee-fax) (5687)



An ingenious and intelligent villain: the coyote (8.30pm)

- 8.30 Wildlife on One: The Prankster.
 ● CHOICE: Familiar from dozens of cowboy films for its distinctive night line howl, the coyote continues to provoke strong reactions. For ranchers and owners of domestic cats and dogs, the only good coyote is a dead one. In California in the early 1980s a coyote attacked and killed a three-year-old girl, though the child's mother bears no hatred. Wolfgang Packer's film is not an apology for the coyote but a balance to its balance. It stresses the animal's intelligence and ingenuity. It points out that killing coyotes has done nothing to stop their spread and shows an experiment in Massachusetts in training them to be guard dogs. If you cannot shoot them, socialise them. The camerawork is of the usual high standard. The coyote may be a villain but it is very photogenic. (Cee-fax) (1254)
 8.00 Nine O'Clock News with Marilyn Lewis. (Cee-fax) Regional news and weather (8234)
 9.30 Panorama: Bush's Domestic Storm. Fred Emery reports from Missouri and New Hampshire on the re-election prospects of President Bush (949487)
 10.10 Cagney and Lacey. With Mary Beth on maternity leave Christina Cagney herself partners with an officer who is the partner of the department after shopping his colleagues (1). (Cee-fax) (551861). Northern Ireland: 29 Bedford Street
 11.00 Olympics '92. Highlights of today's ice hockey action, introduced by Helen Rollason (75213)
 12.00 Advice Show. Why can't disabled people have the same rights as everyone else? (1) (4073091)
 12.20am Weather (7753140). Ends at 12.25
 2.00 The Way Ahead. The fourth of 12 programmes explaining April's new benefits for the disabled (333072). Ends at 2.15

BBC 2

- 8.45 Open University: The Enlightenment - Freedom and Plenty (5657132). Ends at 7.10
 8.00 Breakfast News (2551213)
 8.15 Westminster (2551213)
 8.30 Antiques at Home. Michael Newman visits George Farrow's Jersey home and collection of high quality French and Italian Renaissance furniture (1) (81774)
 9.00 Daytime on 2. Educational programmes
 2.00 News and weather (10521125) followed by Storytime (74168942)
 2.15 Regional Westminster Programme (1) (762515). Northern Ireland: Harry and the Hendersons 2.45 Britain By the Bag. Professor Erik Holm continues his exploration of the impact world has on how some species camouflage themselves (238580)
 3.00 News and weather (890381) followed by Songs of Praise from the chapel of Trinity hospice and the Holy Trinity Church, Clapham (1) (943328)
 3.40 I Could Do That. How Beth Chitto's hobby of gardening has turned into big business (779126) 3.50 News, regional news and weather (7785010)
 4.00 Catchword. Game for wordsmiths hosted by Paul Cole (1) (774)
 4.30 Wildlife Game. Tony Tanks and Armstrong Anderson. Fergus Keeling looks at animals with protective shells (1) (2442519) 4.55 Reviving Antiques. John Fitzmaurice Mills with advice on cleaning earthenware (5488861)
 5.00 Cricket. Highlights of the first day's play in the third Test between New Zealand and England in Wellington (7045)
 5.30 Film 82 With Barry Norman. Among the film reviewed are Barton Fink, For the Boys and Death in Brunswick (1) (710)
 6.00 Olympics Today introduced by Desmond Lynam. Highlights from day three of the Winter Olympics (236107)



An operatic treat for the Queen: baritone Thomas Allen (6.50pm)

- 6.50 Don Giovanni.
 ● CHOICE: Tonight's performance from Covent Garden is, among other things, a fortieth anniversary treat for the Queen who will be in the audience. Thanks to the television cameras you and I can share the evening, live and as it happens. The producer Johannes Schacht has had a mixed record at the Garden since his superb Marriage of Figaro, staging an ordinary domestic and an eccentric Così fan tutti. This time he has the insurance of Bernard Haitink as conductor and a heavyweight international cast headed by Thomas Allen in the title role, Claudio Desderi as Leporello and Carol Vaness as Donna Anna. Our critic, Paul Griffiths, found the production cold but powerful. This is a simultaneous broadcast with Radio 3. During the interval at around 8.30pm a half-hour feature, Long Live the Queen (5683), recalls events between the accession in February 1952 and the coronation the following year (7582107). After interval 8.49pm
 10.45 Newsnight presented by Jeremy Paxman (261872)
 11.30 The Late Show. How Robert Maxwell made maximum use of the Royal law (1) (594555)
 11.55 Weather (748010)
 12.00 Open University: Nitrate in Drinking Water (56324). Ends at 12.30am

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
 The numbers now appearing next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes, which allow you to instantly programme your video recorder with a VideoPlus+ handset. VideoPlus+ can be used with most video. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. For most details call 0800 12124 (calls charged at 40p per minute plus 30p off-peak) or write to VideoPlus+, VTM Ltd, 77 Fulham Palace Road, London W6 8JF. VideoPlus+, PlusCode (1) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gannett Marketing Ltd.

ITV

- 6.00 TV-am (5570213)
 9.25 Kryptonite. Music game show for teams, hosted by Alistair Dine (154455) 9.35 Thames News (433362)
 10.00 The Time... The Place... John Stapleton chairs a discussion on a topical subject (465331)
 10.40 This Morning. Family magazine series presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley. Today's edition includes news of new methods of pain relief during childbirth (305303)
 12.10 News and Jim. Children's puppet series (2752281)
 12.30 News. (Cee-fax) (814039) 1.10 Thames News (5373794)
 1.20 Home and Away. Australian family drama series. (Cee-fax) (853671) 1.50 A Country Practice. Medical drama series set in a small Australian outback town (5207455)
 2.20 Thames Help. Jackie Spence previews her week's programmes on voluntary work in the community (7712323) 2.50 Families. Soap linking the north of England with Australia (834682)
 3.15 ITV News headlines (890381) 3.20 Thames News headlines (81701) 3.25 The Young Doctors (8323010)
 3.55 Jackie's World. Adventures of a little girl (8051478) 4.00 T-Bag and the Adventures of a Little Girl (8051478) 4.05 City in the Sun. Rescued. Rescued. Carlton (8823010) 4.50 Utterly Battered. Thelma Houston learns how to take better photographs and tries a new haircut that doesn't use hair (1) (442381)
 5.10 Blockbusters. General knowledge quiz game for teenagers, presented by Bob Holmes (568871)
 5.40 News. (Cee-fax) (814039) 5.55 Thames Help. Jackie Spence on voluntary work in the community (1) (804078)
 6.20 Thames News. (Cee-fax) (225)
 7.00 What You Were Here. 2. Judith Chalmers is joined by David Bellamy to announce the winner of the Tourism for Tomorrow award for green tourist projects. Victoria Studd visits the tropical rain forests of Costa Rica and makes a place that travellers visiting the country should go to get better photographs and tries a new haircut that doesn't use hair (1) (442381)
 7.20 Corporation Street. (Cee-fax) (1) (213)



Aperitif: M.P. Penelope Keith with Mark Kingston (8.00pm)

- 8.00 No job for a Lady. Last in the perceptive comedy series starring Penelope Keith as a Labour MP not always content to toe the party line. This week she is campaigning against abuses in the lobby system of briefing journalists (Cee-fax) (1) (7655)
 8.30 World in Action. A report on the provision of intensive care in the health service. The programme reveals that although more than 70 per cent of those allocated intensive care beds survive, other critically ill adults and children are being denied access to intensive care units because of cuts in staff and beds (2533)
 8.50 The City of Dreadful Night. Easy-going crime comedy set on the Costa del Sol. Douglas (John Birt) and Rolle (Amelia Redman) are hired to look after an English footballer about to be transferred to a Spanish team. A seemingly easy task runs into trouble (Cee-fax) (1) (8213)
 10.00 News. (Cee-fax) (814039) 10.30 Thames News (54330)
 10.40 Fast Forward. (1975) starring Burt Reynolds and Dyan Cannon. Fast-forwarding private eye, Burt Reynolds hired to recover stolen diamonds and help to work his way through a collection of Rugs, mugs, wipers and other appliances. Directed by Buzz Kulik (234222)
 12.30am Newsworld Extra. Highlights of the Qatar golf classic (8614)
 1.30 Film: The Fifth Wave. (1985) starring Robert Conrad, Sam Waterston, Richard Roundtree and David Soul. Soggy underwater thriller about the crew of a submarine on a secret mission who discover the implications of a third world war has started.
 3.50 News. (Cee-fax) (814039) 4.00 News. (Cee-fax) (814039) 4.30 News. (Cee-fax) (814039) 4.50 News. (Cee-fax) (814039) 5.00 News. (Cee-fax) (814039) 5.30 News. (Cee-fax) (814039) 6.00 News. (Cee-fax) (814039) 6.30 News. (Cee-fax) (814039) 7.00 News. (Cee-fax) (814039) 7.30 News. (Cee-fax) (814039) 8.00 News. (Cee-fax) (814039) 8.30 News. (Cee-fax) (814039) 9.00 News. (Cee-fax) (814039) 9.30 News. (Cee-fax) (814039) 10.00 News. (Cee-fax) (814039) 10.30 News. (Cee-fax) (814039) 11.00 News. (Cee-fax) (814039) 11.30 News. (Cee-fax) (814039) 12.00 News. (Cee-fax) (814039) 12.30 News. (Cee-fax) (814039) 1.00 News. (Cee-fax) (814039) 1.30 News. (Cee-fax) (814039) 2.00 News. (Cee-fax) (814039) 2.30 News. (Cee-fax) (814039) 3.00 News. (Cee-fax) (814039) 3.30 News. (Cee-fax) (814039) 4.00 News. (Cee-fax) (814039) 4.30 News. (Cee-fax) (814039) 5.00 News. (Cee-fax) (814039) 5.30 News. (Cee-fax) (814039) 6.00 News. (Cee-fax) (814039) 6.30 News. (Cee-fax) (814039) 7.00 News. 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